

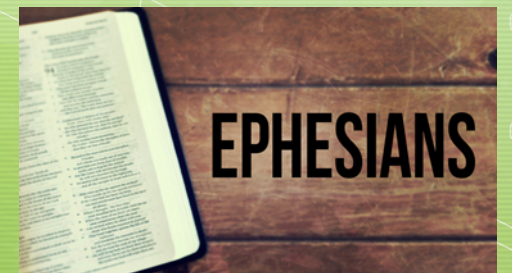
Adult Bible Study



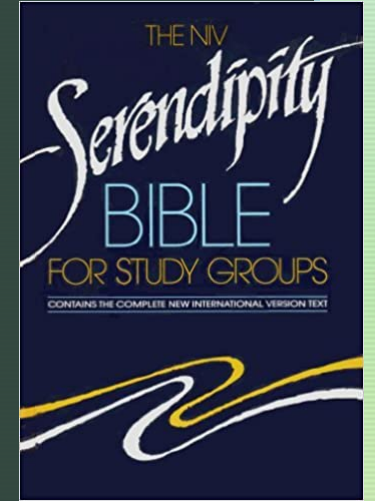
**Led by
Dan
Schuch**

**Sunday, Sept 27
6:30 pm**

Prayer



What was one of the best gifts you received as a child? What made it so special for you?



A decorative white scrollwork border with intricate swirls and flourishes, framing the central text.

Introduction

FROM DAN

So Paul is writing this letter to Christians in Ephesus who come from a Gentile background. Paul doesn't know them even though he knows lots of people in Ephesus since he lived there for years.

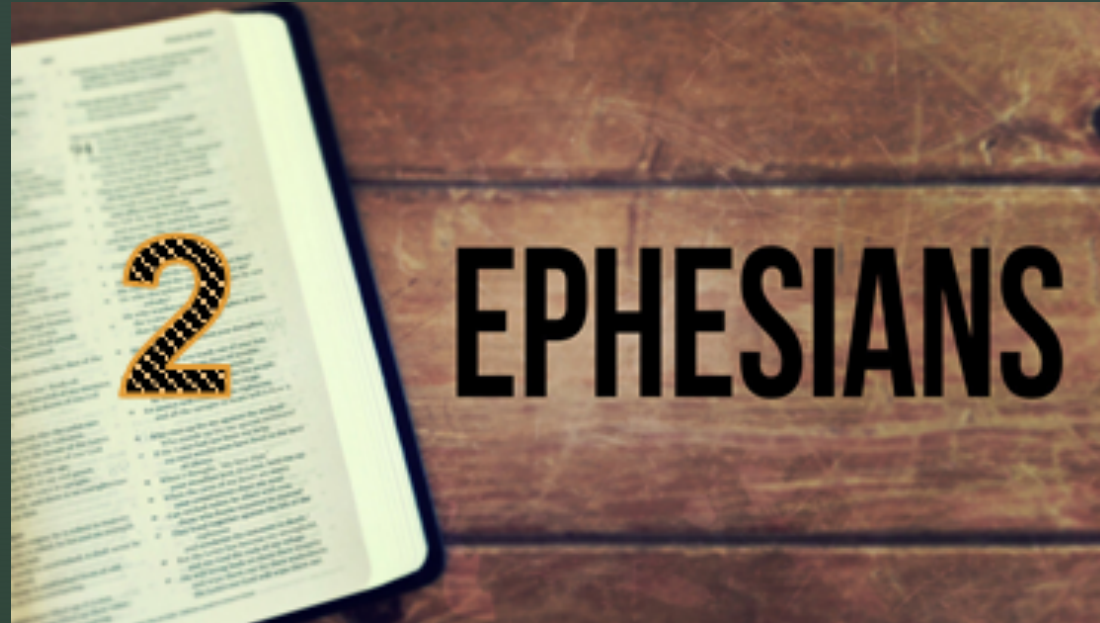
Paul is very excited about this group of believers. Chapter one contains a solid and strong description of what faith in Christ means. He uses a lot of language that only Christians would understand.

Now in chapter 2 Paul has two topics –
1) being made alive in Christ and 2)
how Jews and Gentiles are reconciled
through Christ.

He starts up by saying that in the past they (gentiles) were in the grasp of Satan's hand. These people "sinned" against God and "transgressed" against each other. Then he immediately goes on to say we (Jews) too were also in the grasp of Satan's hand and did the same things – just like you!!

but because of God's love and mercy
He redeemed us and you as well. He is
basically saying we are no different
from you in God's eyes even though we
come from different backgrounds - Jew
and Gentile.

Paul tells them (and in turn us) that it is by God's grace you and I have a restored relationship with God through Christ. We called this being "saved". And we are saved by grace and not of works so that nobody can boast. We cannot earn our way into a relationship with God. Our relationship with Him is solely by grace through God's love and mercy.





2

EPHESIANS

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.



2

EPHESIANS

³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.



2

EPHESIANS

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,
⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.



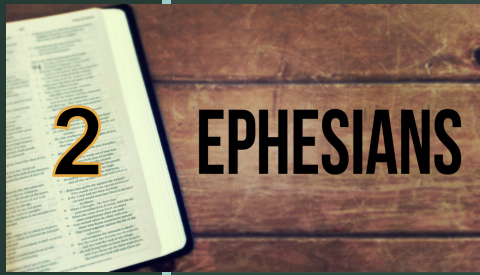
2

EPHESIANS

⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

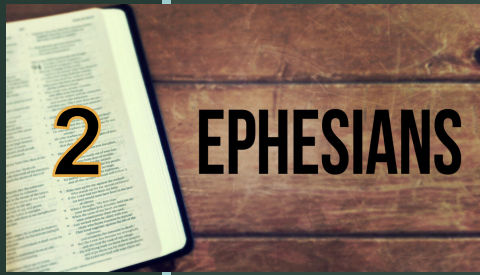
SOMETHING
amazing
IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN

...WAIT FOR IT

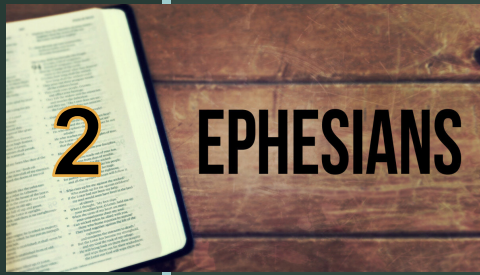


⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

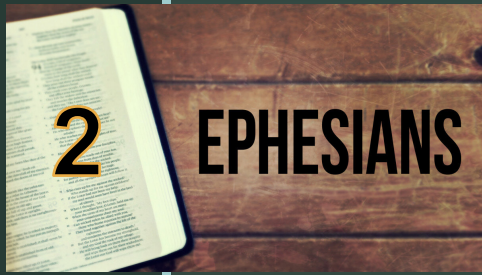
**Don't let this
next one slip
away**



**¹⁰For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to do
good works, which God prepared
in advance for us to do.**



¹¹Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—



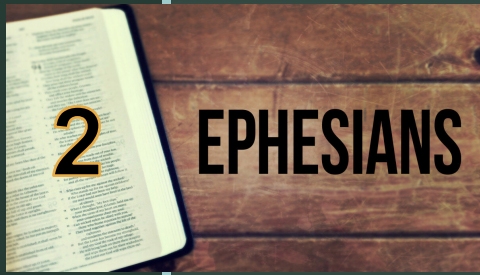
¹²remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.



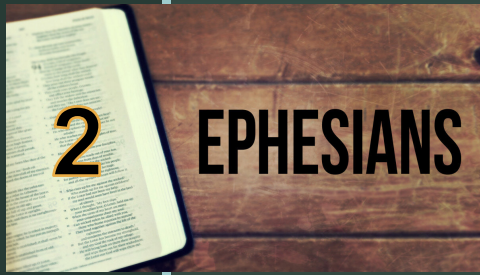
2

EPHESIANS

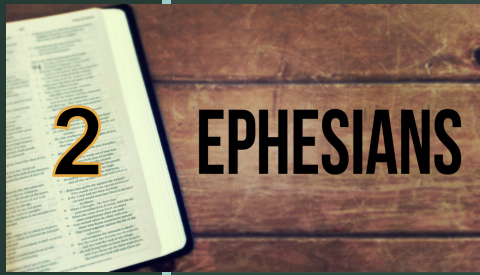
¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,



¹⁵by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,

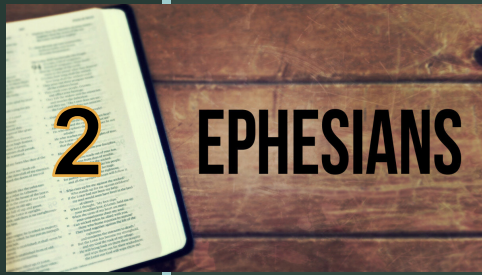


¹⁶and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

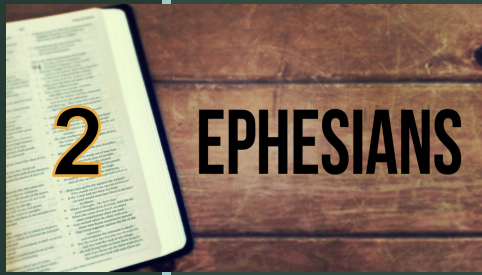


¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.



¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,



2⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.



2

EPHESIANS

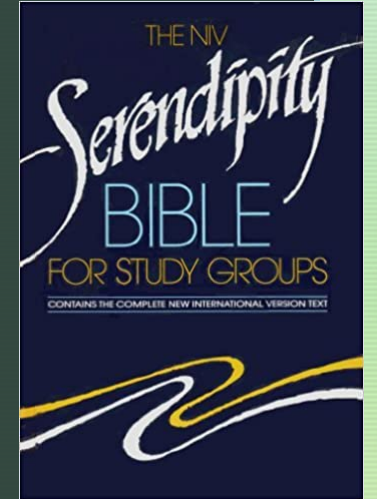
²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.



Let's dig in!

**What is the relationship
between wrath and love?**

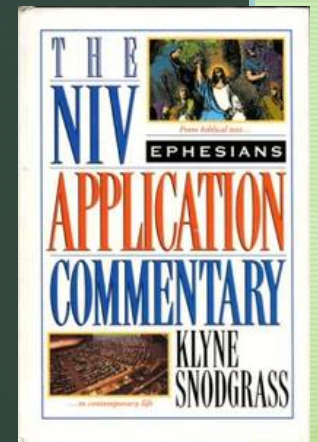
**Between grace and
works?**



The picture the text paints is bleak. Because of sins humans are the living dead. They live in keeping with the world order that ignores God and in keeping with the tyrant who works to cause disobedience. In their enslavement, they followed desires and distorted reasonings that leave God out of the picture and therefore they are under God's wrath.



Klyne
Snodgrass



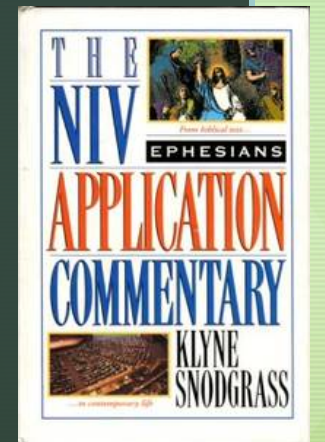
2.1-10



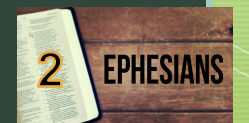
But the main point of Ephesians and especially of 2:1-10 is that God will not stay out of the picture.



Klyne Snodgrass



2.1-10



Dictionary

Search for a word



trans·gres·sion

/trans'greSHən, tranz'greSHən/

noun

an act that goes against a law, rule, or code of conduct; an offense.
"I'll be keeping an eye out for further transgressions"

Against mankind



sin¹

/sin/

See definitions in:

All

Religion

Mathematics

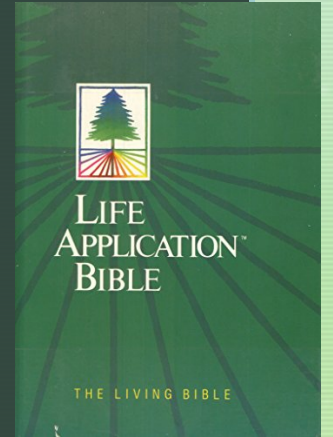
noun

an immoral act considered to be a transgression against divine law.
"a sin in the eyes of God"

Against God

2.1

“the ruler of the kingdom of the air”
was understood by Paul's readers to mean Satan and the evil spiritual forces they thought inhabited the region between earth and the Sky. Satan is thus pictured as ruling the evil spiritual world the demons and those who were against Christ



**See what you used to be.
Let this make you humble.
See what you “can be”.
Let this make you grateful.**



**Charles
Spurgeon
(1834-1892)**

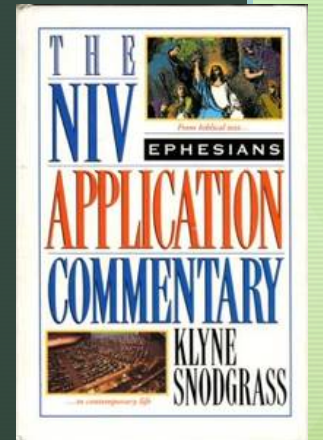
***“gratifying the cravings
of our flesh”***

In contexts like this, the Greek word for flesh (sarx) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit.

(Paul's) concern is not that Christians merely lived *among* the disobedient, but that they also lived *like* them



Klyne Snodgrass



Whatever God has, he has in abundance, but of his mercy we read that he has riches of it; and truly all those riches of mercy he has shown in our case. We cannot but have riches of gratitude for such riches of mercy.



**Charles
Spurgeon
(1834-1892)**

2.4-5



We should be sure to boast if we could. We are a boasting people. Man is a poor mass of flesh, and he is largely given to the corruption of pride, He will boast if he can.

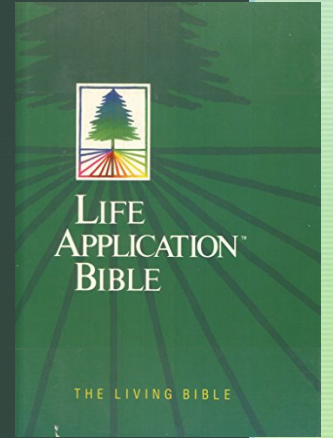


**Charles
Spurgeon
(1834-1892)**

2.8-9



How often do Christians, even after they have been given the gift of salvation, feel obliged to try and work their way to God?



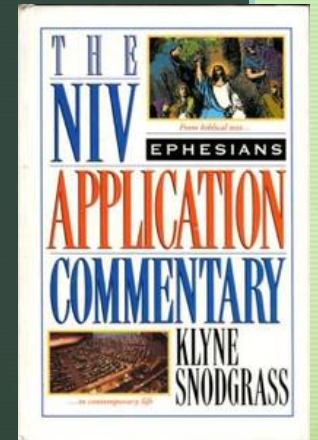
2.8-9



For the most part, we do not believe the picture of ourselves is as bad as Paul says. Are the lives we so carefully groom meaningless --- a living death --- without God in the picture?



Klyne Snodgrass



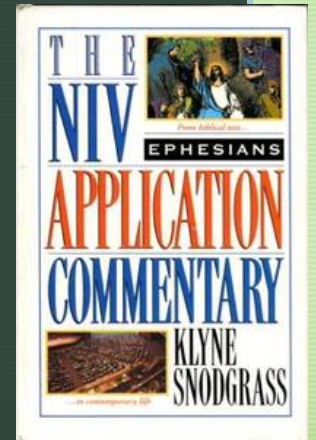
2.1-10



On the other hand, we find it hard to believe that the facts are as good as Paul says. Does God really love us so deeply and are we actually exalted with Christ in the heavenly realms?



Klyne
Snodgrass



2.1-10



There is no circumcision and uncircumcision now, for that is done away with. There is no Israel according to the flesh now, and Gentiles who are not of God, for there is a spiritual Israel, to which we belong, as well as those of Abraham's race. He has swept out of the way all the ordinances which divided us, and we are now one in him.



**Charles
Spurgeon
(1834-1892)**

2.14-15

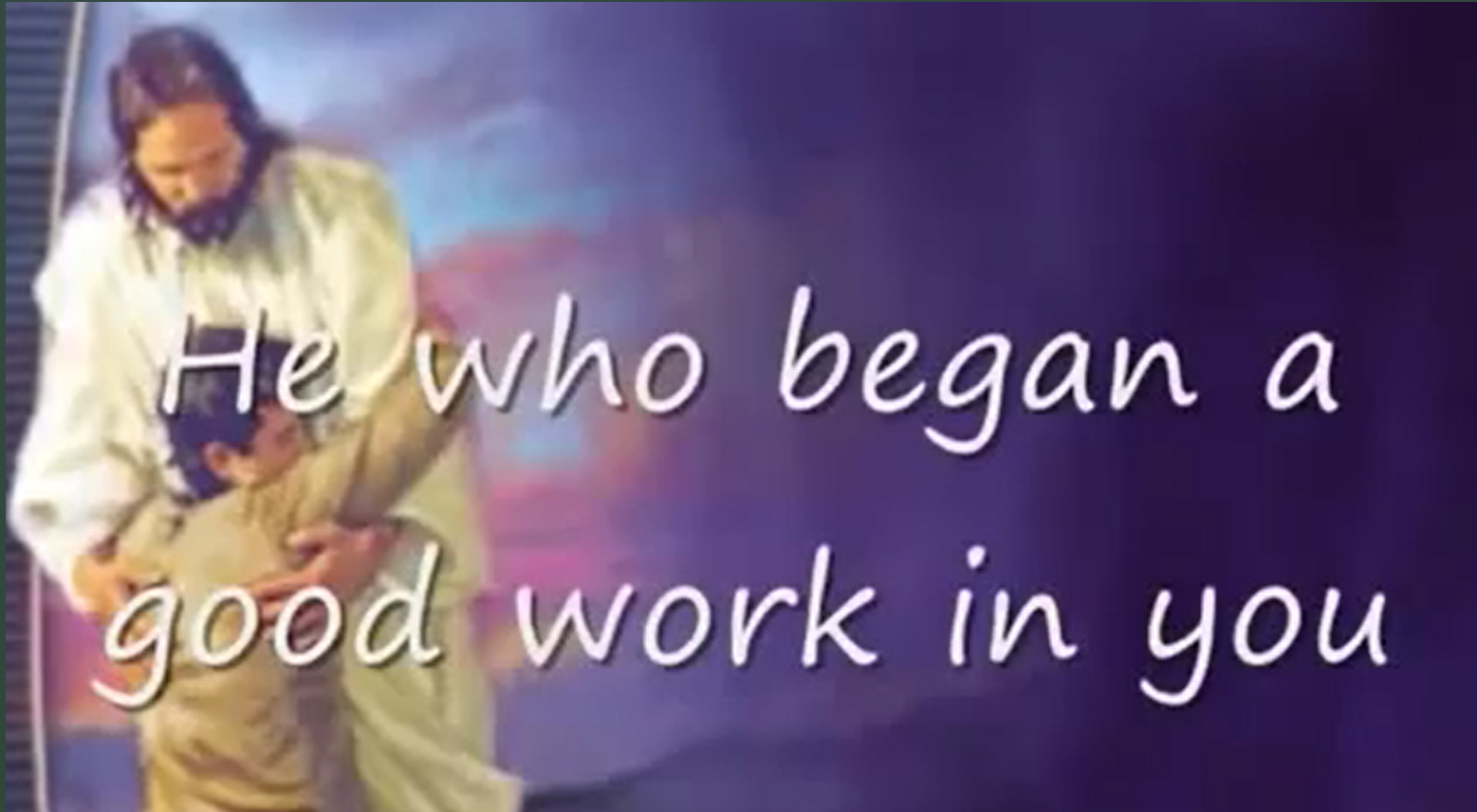


**We are saved by grace.
We are created to do
good works.**

We are saved by grace. We are created to do good works. It is not one or the other. It is both.

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.



He who began a
good work in you



That's all Folks!