

A REVIEW OF

Ephesians 2

From Death to Life: Grace, Faith, and the New Humanity in Christ

Chapter Overview

Ephesians 2 traces the believer's journey from spiritual death to new life. Paul first describes humanity's condition apart from Christ, then unveils the free gift of grace through faith, and finally shows how Jew and Gentile are joined into one united people — God's household, built on Christ.



Dead in Sin

vv. 1–3

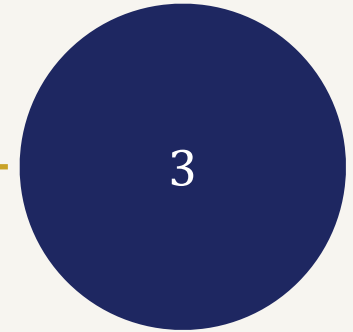
Life apart from God



Saved by Grace

vv. 4–10

Made alive through faith



One New Body

vv. 11–22

United as God's household

Paul's message Paradigm shift

² *And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins . . .*

⁸ ***For** by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Saved *from* what?

¹⁰ ***For we are His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

Saved *for* what?



"For We Are His Workmanship"

EPHESIANS 2:10

- No good works without His creation, enablement and grace, in Christ.
- Only possible through and because of the Gospel - (Eph. 2: 8, and 9)
- As a spiritually dead person, there is no good work I can do.

For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]. From the Amplified Bible, Ephesians 2:10



DISCUSS

Do you know why you were created?

Do you know what good works God has created you to do?

What is the role of Spiritual gifts?

Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12 (especially verses 4-11 and 28-30), Ephesians 4:11-13, and 1 Peter 4:10-11

A few things to notice from the text itself:

- **Gifts come from the Spirit, for the church's benefit.** 1 Corinthians 12:7 says the manifestation of the Spirit is given "for the common good" — spiritual gifts aren't primarily about personal fulfillment, they're for building up the body.
- **Every believer has at least one.** 1 Peter 4:10 assumes every Christian has received a gift, not just pastors or "spiritual" people.
- **No one has all the gifts, and that's the point.** 1 Corinthians 12:14-20 uses the body metaphor precisely to show that diversity of gifting is intentional design, not a deficiency.



EPHESIANS 3: 1- 13

Crack Of Dawn BIBLE STUDY

Chapter Overview

In Ephesians 3 Paul describes himself as a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of Gentiles as he reveals the mystery God hid for ages, but revealed in Christ. He also describes himself as a servant of the gospel, enabled only by God's grace. He administers the mysteries of God's purpose for the church - that His manifold wisdom is made clear to the "rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms". He prays that they will know "the love that surpasses" knowledge and be filled with the "fullness of God".



Paul as Prisoner

vv. 1–6

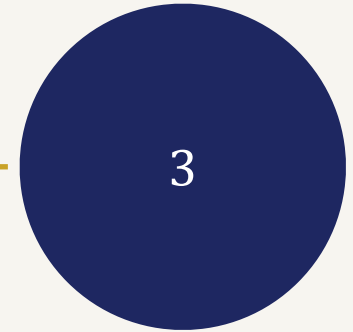
For the Gentiles



Paul as Servant

vv. 7–13

*Grace to preach boundless riches of
Christ*



Paul as Intercessor

vv. 14–21

"Filled up with the fulness of God"



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

“When you think of a spiritually strong man, what qualities come to mind?”

3 1-3 This is why I, Paul, am in jail for Christ, having taken up the cause of you outsiders, so-called. I take it that you're familiar with the part I was given in God's plan for including everybody. I got the inside story on this from God himself, as I just wrote you in brief.

4-6 As you read over what I have written to you, you'll be able to see for yourselves into the mystery of Christ. None of our ancestors understood this. Only in our time has it been made clear by God's Spirit through his holy apostles and prophets of this new order. The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all their lives (what I've been calling outsiders and insiders) stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board.

From "The Message" By Eugene Petersen. The Bible in contemporary language

7-8 This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message. It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities.

8-10 And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

From “The Message” By Eugene Petersen. The Bible in contemporary language

11-13 All this is proceeding along lines planned all along by God and then executed in Christ Jesus. When we trust in him, we’re free to say whatever needs to be said, bold to go wherever we need to go. So don’t let my present trouble on your behalf get you down. Be proud!

1

Paul's Calling

VERSES 1–6

- 1 Paul describes himself as a “prisoner of Christ Jesus.” What does that phrase tell us about how Paul viewed his circumstances?
- 2 Paul says that God gave him a special responsibility to share the gospel with the Gentiles. What responsibility has God entrusted to you?
- 3 Why do you think the inclusion of Gentiles was such a significant revelation in Paul's day?
- 4 Verse 6 says that Gentiles are “heirs together with Israel.” What does that tell us about how God views people who are different from us?
- 5 Where do you see division among Christians today? What would it look like to live out the unity Paul describes?

2

Serving God

VERSES 7-13

- 1 Paul calls himself a “servant of this gospel.” What does being a servant of Christ actually look like for a man in everyday life?
- 2 Paul says he was given grace to proclaim Christ even though he considered himself “less than the least of all God’s people.” Why is humility so important in Christian leadership?
- 3 Paul suffered because of his ministry. How should a Christian man respond when doing the right thing becomes difficult or costly?
- 4 Verse 10 says that God’s wisdom is made known “through the church.” What does that say about the importance of the local church?
- 5 Paul tells the Ephesians not to be discouraged because of his suffering. How can our response to hardship affect the faith of the men around us?

Chapter Summary

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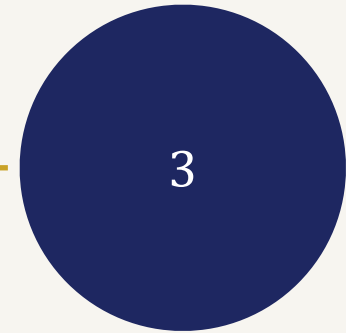
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