

# Ephesians 2

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## From Death to Life

The book of Ephesians is full of sensational good news, unlike the Apostle Paul's other letters, it does not address any urgent problems but turns to the grandest question of all: What is God's overall purpose for this world? Paul answers it this way; 'to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head'. In his answer, Paul raises the sights far above his own circumstances to much bigger issues, cosmic issues. He is focused on the eternal aspect.

### Ephesians 2:1-10 NIV

The past order of the living dead (vs 1-3)

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in 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. All 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.*

*He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. (Isaiah 40:29, NLT)*

Once you were \_\_\_\_\_ (v1):

Human beings as sons and daughters of Adam enter the world spiritually dead, not only do we need a guide or a teacher but someone to resurrect our spirit and bring transformation to our moral essence.

\_\_\_\_\_ of the air:

A title for Satan (the devil) as he exercises influence globally and within each culture. He "kingdom of the air" is Satan's dominion. He does not rule in heaven, but in the world.

\_\_\_\_\_ of wrath:

The inevitable sum of those who live under the spirit of disobedience is to come under God's righteous anger, a judgement for those who violate boundaries of spiritual and moral duty. (Romans 1:18-21)

### A. The new order of God's loving life (vs 4-10)

Hope is available in Christ because of God's incredible grace and salvation. Here Paul accents this grace in contrast to the hopelessness and helplessness analysed in verses 1-3.

But God: receive the rich mercy, great love and kindness of God in Christ Jesus.

'Rich in mercy': Mercy removes misery: love confers salvation.

Because of His mercy we are able to:

- \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of salvation by grace through faith.
- Be confident \_\_\_\_\_ that God raised us up out of death into life and positioned you securely in Christ.

Gift of Grace: - 'it is by grace you have been saved' (vs 5).

Assured in \_\_\_\_\_ (v 6-7) - We, through Christ, have a place in heaven. This was all accomplished by Christ's resurrection from death and His ascension to glory.

Walking in good works (v8-10)

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

That faith must be obedient.

1. For we are his workmanship — which proves both that salvation is by faith, and that faith is the gift of God.
2. Created unto good works — that afterwards we might give ourselves to them.
3. Which God had before pre-prepared — the occasions of them: so we must still ascribe the whole to God
4. That we might walk in them — though not be justified by them.

Second section: Unity and \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 11-22)

This section is addressed to the Gentile readers, here Paul contrasts their former estranged position with their new position as members of the household of God.

**B. The past separation and Hopelessness** (vs 11, 12)

Paul first reminds the Ephesians that they were once separated from God at a great distance. Most of them hadn't even belonged to Israel or believed in the Old Testament promises. They had lived in dark ignorance as heathens without hope.

Uncircumcision is the most direct term to describe the fact that the Gentiles were outside any covenant relationship with God.

The only flesh and blood that can impart salvation to the human spirit is the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ.

**C. The new union and present peace** (vs 13-18)

Brought near through Christ (vs 13) - Paul describes the Gentiles (non-Jews) as now being just as "near" to God as the Jewish people and from now on Paul will develop that theme. To be brought near means to have access to God.

Made one, Christ our Peace (vs 14-18): - Jew and Gentile are no longer divided.

Access: (vs 18) – to draw near to God and to enjoy him forever in a new creation is both mankind's greatest good and the ultimate accomplishment of Christ's earthly work of redemption. ONE SPIRIT.

**D. The \_\_\_\_\_**

The Church: Christ's building (vs 19-22). What Paul has been saying has not all been easy to understand, but now he will bring it all together in a simple way as he draws out key implications of what he has taught in the last eight verses.

*So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with the consecrated, and members of the household of God. You are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Christ Jesus himself is the cornerstone. In Him the whole building is fitted together. It grows into a holy temple in the Lord. And you are part of it too. In Him you are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:19-22, CEB).*

- So then (vs 19): Christians have to know and be thoroughly convinced of who they are as saints and members of the household of God if they are to live.
- Built upon Christ (vs 19): Jesus has brought peace and reconciliation by joining every Christian into one single structure.
- Joined together (vs 21): As Christians we are the temple of God corporately (talking about the Church).

Because of the great love God has for us, He cleansed us by the blood of Jesus, making us Holy by His grace. We cannot earn forgiveness or become holy through our works. It is by grace through faith in Jesus that we are made righteous. However, God has created us to do good works, things He prepared in advance for us to do. Do the things God gives you to do, but know that you are holy by His grace.