

Ephesians | Peace to You

Ephesians 2:1-10

Pastor Taylor Terzek

Ephesians is about the gospel of peace that is at work in and through the church's allegiance to King Jesus.

[1] And you were dead in your trespasses and sins [2] in which you previously lived according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient.

[3] We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.

[4] But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, [5] made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!

[6] He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, [7] so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

[8] For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift -- [9] not from works, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

“With the exception of John 3:16, perhaps the most famous passage in Scripture is “by grace you have been saved, through faith,” found in Eph 2:8 (see also 2:6). The challenge is to hear this verse anew, to have it speak afresh.” - Lynn H. Cohick, *Ephesians*, Kindle 1386.

The Lullaby Effect

Rock-a-bye baby

On the treetop

When the wind blows

The cradle will rock

When the bough breaks

The cradle will fall

And down will come baby

Cradle and all

Hearing this Passage Anew

(1) See the passage in context

(2) Define some key terms

[1] And you were dead in your trespasses and sins [2] in which you previously lived according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient.

[3] We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.

We were dead, but this deadness was a kind of living or a way of living.

[4] But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, [5] made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!

[6] He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus...

There is no salvation apart from union with Christ.

*[6] He also raised us up with him and seated us with him **in the heavens** in Christ Jesus...*

In the most basic sense, 'heavens' in scripture refers to the skies. Beyond that, it is a reference to God's realm in contrast to the human realm on earth that reflects God's dominion. See *Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 26:15; Isaiah 66:1; Psalm 11:4; 19:1; 68:34; 103:19; 115:2-3, 16; 148:1; Matthew 6:9.*

In our union with Christ, we get to participate in that realm of Jesus' saving lordship now.

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[10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

The church's reality is harmonized back into God's design.

The church's reality is harmonized back into God's design. *How?*

(1) By God's saving grace

“In most cultures and at most times, gifts are part of a circular exchange, an ongoing cycle where the gift is intended to create or maintain a social relationship.” - John Barclay, *Paul and the Power of Grace*, 3

The church’s reality is harmonized back into God’s design. *How?*

- (1) By God’s saving grace
- (2) Through faith

pistis incorporates a broad field of meaning, including “trust” and “trustworthiness,” “faith” and “faithfulness,” “conviction” and “loyalty,” “belief” and “fidelity,” “relying upon” and “allegiance” – Gordon Mark Zerbe, *Citizenship: Paul on Peace and Politics*, 26.

“Faith was relational and externalized. Faith faced outward as displayed trust or loyalty toward the other (or toward external objects) more than inward as a feeling of confident reliance or trust” – Matthew W. Bates, *Gospel Allegiance*, 155.

The church’s reality is harmonized back into God’s design. *How?*

- (1) By God’s saving grace
- (2) Through faith
- (3) As an act of new creation

We are now free to live under the transformation of King Jesus rather the conformity of the ways of the world.

As the church, we have to know our story.

As the church, we need to share our story.