

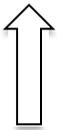
EPHESIANS



Rooted and Grounded
— in love —

Lesson Three EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Day 1



Father, please flood my eyes with light so that I can see the beauty of you and your plan; give me wisdom and insight so that I will understand your word and walk in your ways.

- Read Ephesians 2:1-10 several times. Read through the passage *prayerfully*—responding to what you are reading with praise, thanksgiving, confession or surrender. (God speaks to us through his word and we respond back to him through prayer.)
- Pick one word or phrase that stands out to you to ponder on throughout the day and week. (It may be something that resonates with you or that you want to understand better.) Write it here.
- Write one sentence summarizing the passage.

Day 2- Eph.2:1-3

Write out verses 1-3.

1. According to verse one, sin has rendered human beings spiritually: (circle one)
 - a. comatose
 - b. semiconscious
 - c. dead
 - d. numb

For Discussion:

What are the implications of the fact that we were **dead** in our trespasses and sin?

Scholar's Note: "A 'trespass' (paraptōma) is a false step, involving either the crossing of a known boundary or a deviation from the right path. A 'sin' (hamartia), however, means rather a missing of the mark, a falling short of a standard. Together the two words cover the positive and negative, or active and passive, aspects of human wrongdoing, that is to say, our sins of commission and of omission."¹

2. Paul says that those who are spiritually dead follow the ways of the world, but if you are following the world, who are you actually following according to verse 2?
 - How is the devil described in verse 2 in the NLT?
 - What is the devil doing?
 - Knowing this, what is one of the ways this should prompt us to pray for our unsaved friends and family?

Picture and Ponder:

"When [the devil] and the mood he inspires are said to be at work in human beings, the verb (energeō) is the same as that used of God's power (1:20) which raised Jesus from the dead. Only that divine energy or action could have rescued us from the devil."²

Scholar's Note: Flesh- our fallen self-centered human nature.³

3. What two aspects do the passions of our flesh include according to verse 3?

Scholar's Note: Wrath- is God's personal, righteous, constant hostility to evil, his settled refusal to compromise with it, and his resolve instead to condemn it. ⁴



Even if we could somehow manage not to willfully sin, rebelliously disobey—trespass, we could never live up to the other side of the coin. We could never do all the good that we have opportunity to do, we could never generate only pure and loving thoughts, we could never love God and others fully and unconditionally. Do you feel the weight of it? We can't even live up to our own standards much less God's! We were spiritually dead—but praise God, his immeasurably great power that raised Jesus from the dead, raised our spiritually dead souls out of the grave of sin to abundant life in Jesus!

- ❖ Paul talks about the desires of the body. God given desires like food, sex and sleep are not wrong. When do these desires become sin?

- ❖ What are desires of the mind? How do these desires become sin?

- ❖ Spend time in prayer confessing your sin, asking for God to help you stand firm against temptation and praising him for the forgiveness, freedom and victory he provides. (1 Cor. 10:13, 1 John 1:9, 2 Peter 1:3-4)

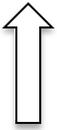
Day 3- Eph.2:4-5

Write out verses 4-5.

4. The GNT renders verse 3b as: *In our natural condition we, like everyone else, were destined to suffer God's anger.* What two words in the beginning of verse 4 show God's intervention?

5. What is God like according to verse 4?

-What is his motivation?



God I thank you and praise you that you are rich in mercy!
Thank you for loving me with a great love that shows itself in
mercy toward sinful people like myself.

For Discussion:

How does God's abundant mercy and love fit with his wrath?

6. Finally in verse 5 we get to God's great act of intervention! What did God do when we were dead in our sins?

- In what way are we united to Jesus according to this verse?

7. The verb tense that Paul uses in *you have been saved*, describes ongoing action. It means you were saved in the past, you are being saved in the present and you will be saved in the future. Explain how all three of these are true.

Day 4- Eph.2:6-7

Write out verses 6-7.

Digging Deeper:

We learned in verse 5 that because of God's great mercy and love, God raised us from the dead—he made us spiritually alive. Verse 6 goes on to say not only did he raise us from the dead, but he also seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are in Christ. Look back to 1:20-21 and read the verses below. What do you think it means that as believers, united to Jesus, we are seated in the heavenly places?

Colossians 3:1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

1 Peter 3:22 Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority. (NLT)

Hebrews 10:12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

8. What is God's aim in raising us to life and seating us with Jesus in the heavenly realms according to verse 7?



It is hard to imagine, much less comprehend, the magnitude of the blessings God has made us the recipients of through Jesus. Dead— now made alive, slaves to sin— now

seated with Christ. Usually it is not a good thing for someone to be made an example of, but in this case the God of the universe, the Great King and Creator is making us examples of his mercy, love, grace and kindness for all of eternity.

- ❖ Ponder the different words Paul uses in an effort to describe the wonder of being in Christ. What impression do each of these make on your heart and mind?

...the **immeasurable** riches of his grace in kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

...the immeasurable **riches** of his grace in kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

...the immeasurable riches of his **grace** in kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

...the immeasurable riches of his grace in **kindness** to us in Christ Jesus.



Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer... God that you would choose to display your riches of grace and kindness to me for all of eternity... My heart is filled with wonder.

Day 5- Eph.2:8-10

Write out verses 8-10.

9. What is the prime example of God's grace to us according to verse 8?

Scholar's Note: Salvation- 'Salvation' is more than forgiveness. It is deliverance from the death, slavery and wrath described in verses 1-3. Indeed, it includes the totality of our new life in Christ, together with whom we have been made alive, exalted and seated in the heavenly realm." ⁵

10. What is the avenue through which grace works according to verse 8?

Picture and Ponder:

"We must never think of salvation as a kind of transaction between God and us in which he contributes grace and we contribute faith. For we were dead, and had to be quickened before we could believe."⁶

11. What are all the ways Paul makes clear in verses 8-9 that salvation is not our own doing in any way?

Scholar's Note: "The grammar [in verse 8] indicates that the whole of salvation is to be viewed as a gift. Grace is a gift. Faith is a gift. Salvation is a gift."⁷



Because dead people contribute nothing to their own salvation, Paul says in verse 9 that boasting is totally inappropriate. Boasting in God is the only thing that makes sense since he has done it all! Our salvation is to the praise of his glorious grace!

*I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

² *My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.*

³ *Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together! Psalm 34:1-3*

❖ What does it look like to boast in God?

❖ How are you ever tempted to take credit for God's work in your life?



Father, forgive me for ever boasting in myself or taking credit for your work. Help me to turn away from those self-saving efforts and rest in the riches of your grace. You are a gracious and kind, abundantly generous and patient Father!

12. Paul continues to describe God's work of salvation in verse 10. *Workmanship* is the Greek word *poiema* meaning work of art or masterpiece. What does it reveal about God that he is Artist and Creator and you are his masterpiece?

- What does it say about you?

- How is God's work of art able to be seen by the world?

- What is the significance of the fact that good works have been prepared for the saved from eternity past?



If you are in Christ, you were created for good works. This is part of your purpose and calling in life as God's child. Notice the order: first you were rescued—created in Christ Jesus, and then called to display the goodness and grace of God through the light of good works in a dark world.

- ❖ Are you fulfilling your calling to do good works? How can you tell what good works God has prepared for you?

- ❖ What does it mean to *walk* in good works?

