

EPHESIANS

Lesson 3 - Chapter 2

Chapter one described the spiritual blessings that have been bestowed on the believer *in Christ* - the calling, the inheritance, the hope, the power, and so much more! Now, Chapter 2 tells us of our spiritual position in Christ, from death to life. We will see the change from who we were in the flesh to who we are in Christ, a change that comes only by the grace and love of our Lord and Savior.

As you begin this lesson, ask the Lord to expand your understanding of all He has done for you and to appreciate even more His amazing grace and love!

Key Word(s)

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. Make note of those words and their significance here.

Memory Verse – This week’s memory verse is Ephesians 2:8.

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves;
it is the gift of God...”*

Read Ephesians 2:1- 7.

These seven verses are made up of only two sentences – the first telling us who we were and the second telling us what God has done for us to make us who we are in Christ.

1. According to the description in Ephesians 2:1 of *who we were*, what was our spiritual condition?

2. What are the two influences under which believers once *walked* according to Ephesians 2:2?

3. Ephesians 2:3 describes the source of our conduct before we were believers in Christ. How is that source and our very nature described?

4. What more do you find in the Romans 8:7-8 about who we were...?

5. **But God...** These two powerful words make all the difference! Ephesians 2:4-5 describes the heart of God, the heart that reached out to offer us the opportunity to be made new.

a. How is God described?

b. Why did God take us from dead in trespasses and sins to make us alive together with Christ?

6. Read Romans 5:6-8 and notice the description of who we were. But God... Write what you find after these two beautiful words, the truth of what He has done for us.

7. What do the following verses say God has done and will do for us?

a. Ephesians 2:6

b. Ephesians 2:7

8. Just as God has made Jesus alive from the dead, raised Him up and seated Him in the heavenly places, so He has done for the believer. God's grace toward us should provoke a response from us. It is not just information for us to know, it is power to be applied.

a. What does Colossians 3:1 exhort us to do?

b. How do we do this?

9. It is very easy to read these verses and generalize them to apply to “us”, but not consider them personally. Take time now to think about these things as they apply to “me”. Write about who you were and who you are now in Christ.

Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

1. The verses above make it very clear that God is the One who made the changes in us. Ephesians 2:8-9 continues to explain how we were saved from our previous death sentence.

a. By what were you saved?

b. By what were you not saved?

c. Why?

d. What does 1 Corinthians 1:31 say about this?

2. Ephesians 2:10 reminds us of the plan God prepared for us. Write this verse below substituting the personal pronoun “I” for “we” or put your name in to remember that this applies specifically and individually to you!

3. The NLT says “...*we are God’s masterpiece*”. How does this expand your thoughts on this verse?

4. What is the difference between what you called “good works” before you were saved and the “good works” you do now?

Read Ephesians 2:11-22.

Here, in Ephesians 11-22, a mystery is revealed. Through Christ’s death on the cross, all people, both Jews and Gentiles, have equal access to the Father. *“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.” Romans 10:12*

Ephesians 2:11-13

These verses tell us, again, about who we were and who we are now.

1. What do the following scriptures say about who we were?

a. Ephesians 2:11

b. Ephesians 2:12

2. What does Ephesians 2:13 say about what God has done for us?

3. Ephesians 2:11 mentions *“the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands.”* The Jewish circumcision was a physical sign of the covenant between God and the Jews, something God does not require of those *in Christ*. What do the following scriptures tell us about the circumcision God desires from us as believers, one He has provided for us through the cross?

a. Romans 2:28-29

b. Philippians 3:3

c. Colossians 2:11

Ephesians 2:14-18

This section explains how Christ reconciled the Jews and the Gentiles. Two peoples who had been at enmity with one another no longer need to be because of the blood of Christ.

1. Define *enmity*.

2. Ephesians 2:14 begins with the words, “*For He Himself is our peace...*” From each of the following verses, write what Christ did to bring that peace.

a. Ephesians 2:14

b. Ephesians 2:15

c. Ephesians 2:16

3. The reference to the commandments in Ephesians 2:15 can be a little confusing. “*The law of commandments contained in ordinances*” refers to the laws added by the Jews and practiced as though to earn righteousness. The Law is not, and never has been, the source of our righteousness. Our righteousness comes through Jesus Christ and Him only!

Consider the following:

a. What does Matthew 5:17 say about the commandments?

b. What did Jesus say about the law in Matthew 22:37-40?

4. According to Ephesians 2:16-18, how do we have access to the Father?

Ephesians 2:19-22

1. Ephesians 2:19 begins “*Now, therefore...*” Because Jesus made a way for all believers, both Jew and Gentile, to have *access to the Father*, what transition has occurred?

2. Looking at the *household of God* as a building, answer the following:

- a. From Ephesians 2:20, what is the foundation?
- b. From Ephesians 2:20, what part of the building is Jesus?
- c. In Ephesians 2:21, what does this building grow into?
- d. From Ephesians 2:22, what is the purpose of this building?

3. What does it mean that Jesus is the *chief cornerstone*?

In closing...

1. We have seen that Jesus did not come to do away with the Law, but to fulfill it. How does our obedience to the law differ from that of the Jewish nation before Christ died on the cross?

- a. The Jews before Christ –
- b. Our obedience now -

2. We now have access to the Father through Jesus Christ, but do we fully appreciate this? What does this access to the Father mean to you?

Memory Verse

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves;
it is the gift of God...”
Ephesians 2:8.*