

LESSON 4 - EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Someone has well said, "Men who move the world do not let the world move them." That is true, and that was the Apostle Paul. Imprisoned for his faith, restricted to house arrest in Rome, his mobility was limited but his purpose and perspective was constantly ascending! In fact, as he meditated on God's plan of redemption and God's purpose and provision for the believer, Paul's devotion intensified. The gospel message burned within him and, filled and inspired by the Spirit of God, he began to write the epistle to the Ephesians.



THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

1. What key words or phrases in these verses help you understand the main point of the passage?

2. Using the resources you have available, write a definition for each of the following words:

Trespasses (Ephesians 2:1)

Sins (2:1)

Mercy (2:4)

Kindness (2:7)

3. Is there anything in this passage that is unclear to you? Write it out, pray for clarity, and then share with your group.



MIXING THE MORTER

Read Ephesians 2:1-3

4. Beginning in verse 1, what does Paul mean when he says we were dead?
 - a. Can you relate to this description?

5. There are a lot of people who live outwardly moral lives and yet are driven by fleshy desires. How is that possible?
 - a. How can someone who is morally 'good' still be disobedient and influenced by the world and the devil?

 - b. Does Romans 3:10–11, help explain this conundrum?

STONE QUARRY



Try to explain how a moral unbeliever can be dead and a carnal sinful Christian is alive.

6. There is not a single part of mankind's being that is unaffected by the Fall. Considering the condition of all human beings, what do Hebrews 9:27 and 2 Peter 3:7 tell you about the wrath of God upon the non-Christian's life?

7. What are some of the consequences of sin?
 - a. Matthew 18:11
 - b. Isaiah 59:2
 - c. Jeremiah 17:9
 - d. Colossians 2:13
 - e. John 8:34
 - f. Ephesians 4:18

*The essence of sin is the refusal to recognize that
we are accountable to God at all.*

Oswald Chambers



USING A TROWEL

Read Ephesians 2:4-10

8. What does Paul declare about our incredible God before we knew Him in a personal way? (verses 4–5)
 - a. In your own words, describe God's attitude and action toward the lost.
 - b. Do you share His attitude toward the lost?
 - c. How does God make dead people come alive?

9. In what way does Romans 5:6–11 compare to this passage in Ephesians 2:1–10?
 - a. Does John 6:44 shed light on this truth?

10. In addition to the indescribable gift of salvation, what else has God done for us? (verses 6–7)
 - a. Take a moment to consider verses 6–7. What do you suppose are some of the exceeding riches of God’s grace yet to be experienced in heaven?

11. In politics, it has been said, “how you stand depends on where you sit,” referring to the political seating arrangement.
 - a. How can you apply this statement to your position in Christ?

b. Why is our position in Christ significant?

c. What does verse 7 reveal about the future of believers?

CUTTING THE STONE



Using verses 8–10 as your platform, answer the following about your personal salvation:

God saved me by...

God saved me so that...

Some of the good works God prepared beforehand to walk in are...

12. Very clearly, verses 8–10 reveal God's plan of salvation; how are men not saved?

13. Read the statements below and indicate whether each is true or false.

- a. ____ Faith is relying on what God has done rather than on one's own efforts.
- b. ____ Belief is not a matter of passive opinion, but decisive and obedient action.
- c. ____ Anyone is able to make himself righteous before God.
- d. ____ Salvation is a gift of God and does not find its source in man.
- e. ____ Salvation must be earned and comes with strings tied to it.

14. What are some things you see people doing today in an effort to earn their salvation?

- a. If our good works will not earn us God's favor, what is their purpose? See Matthew 5:16, Colossians 1:10, and Hebrews 13:16.

15. From verse 10, define the word workmanship.

- a. When you consider yourself as God's workmanship, does that affect the way you live your life? Why or why not?

CUTTING THE STONE



The Bible clearly states that salvation is not obtained by works we do but only through God's grace, as we place our faith in Jesus as Savior. If you are still living a life that is dead in sin and have never trusted Jesus as Savior, why don't you take a moment and do that now. Write out a prayer telling Him you are accepting His free gift of salvation and placing your faith in His finished work at the cross.

If you have already been "raised with Christ," write out a prayer of thanks to Him for His gift of life and ask Him for a new awareness of the good works He has prepared for you to do as you walk with Him in the coming weeks.

*G is for Gift: The principle of grace.
R is for Redemption: The purpose of grace.
A is for Access: The privilege of grace.
C is for Character: The product of grace.
E is for Eternal Life: The prospect of grace.*

- Vance Hawes



STONE UPON STONE

Group Discussion Questions

Chapter 2 begins to explain the execution of God's eternal plan of salvation. The dramatic transformation from sinner to saint, from death to life, from the wrath of God to the mercy and grace of God, from disobedience to obedience. Take a moment to read Ephesians 2:1–10 and answer the following questions for your time of discussion after the message.

1. From a personal perspective, what is the most important lesson in this study?

2. What insight do you gain about God's incredible grace, goodness, and mercy in this passage?

3. Is there anything you can do to grow in the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Please explain.

4. How have you seen God working in you this week?
 - a. What good work is God using you to do?

5. Verses 8–9 are some of the most comprehensive words in Scripture regarding salvation. Try to explain the difference between good works and faith.
 - a. Why is grace preeminent to faith?
 - b. Do works and faith co-exist? If so, in what way?
6. 2 Corinthians 9:15, Paul explodes with praise and says, “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” You don’t have to define His gift; in fact, you can’t—you simply have to live it out in thanks. How is your lifestyle an expression of your thankfulness?
 - a. As you consider your own fears, anxieties, and worries, what power do they have compared to God?

*Grace is everything for nothing. It's helping the helpless,
going to those who cannot come in their own strength!*

Lehman Strauss

