

## Week 3: Ephesians 2:1-10

*1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

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### Study Questions

1. How does Paul describe the pre-Christian status in verses 1-3?
2. What are some characteristic values of the world ('the course of this world' v. 1) that we experience in 21<sup>st</sup> century rural America? In what ways are they consistent with Biblical values? In what ways do they contrast Biblical values?
3. How does sin twist our desires ('carrying out the desires of the body and the mind' v. 3), both of the 'body' (food, drink, pleasure activities, etc.) and of the 'mind' (pride, selfish ambition, anger, jealousy, etc.)?
4. God's wrath has been defined as his "settled opposition to sin and injustice"? Why, biblically speaking, would we be deserving of wrath? Why is this notion so counter-cultural today?
5. What changed when we moved from death to life (vv. 4–5)? What are things God has done for us?
6. Why are the words 'but God' (v. 4) so sweet?
7. In what ways do we see both 'mercy' (not getting what we do deserve) and 'grace' (getting what we don't deserve) in this passage?
8. Why is the timing of our salvation and our "good works" (described by Paul in vv. 8–10), so important? Why do we need to know that our good works come after our salvation, and not before it?
9. If you know someone who is trying hard to earn God's grace, what can you say—in a gentle, loving way—to present the truth of Ephesians 2 to them?

Action step: Memorize Ephesians 2:8–10.

