

Home Group Leaders' Notes
Week of September 21, 2025
Ephesians 2:1-10



ON AN ISLAND

While on a three-hour tour, your boat breaks down and you are stuck on an island for a day. A person waiting with you sees your Bible and says, “Doesn’t everyone who is nice go to heaven?” How might you answer?

This week’s passage is one of the clearest descriptions of the love and grace God has done to rescue us. For all of us, we need to know and be ready to explain God’s grace shown to us.

LET’S LEARN FROM GOD’S WORD, THE BIBLE

From death to life! Perhaps, like no other ten verses of Scripture, God opened heaven’s door to reveal His great love and grace. Chapter one is a treasure trove of the blessings God has for those who are “in Christ.” Chapter two reveals that the source of all blessings is our God of love and grace. Many people have memorized verses from this passage. If you haven’t yet, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the richness of these truths. And after you have gathered your breath, ask God to put people in your path with whom you could share this good news.

Read through Ephesians 2:1-10 and consider the following questions.

What does this passage say about the status of a person who is without Christ? (1-5)

Dead

Walking in (living out) trespasses and sins

Following the world

Following the prince of the power of the air (Satan)

Living out the passions of the flesh

Carrying out the desire of the flesh and mind

Children of wrath

Dead in our trespasses

What are the influences that lead people to “walk” in sins? (2-4)

The flesh

The world including the sons of disobedience

The prince of the power of the air (Satan)

How does the author describe our behavior and mindset while walking in sin? (2-3)

Walking in sins,

Following the course of the world

Disobedience

Following desires of the flesh

Some have summarized our status without Christ as (1) dead, (2) enslaved, and (3) condemned. What does God do in Christ to answer each of these? (4-7)

1- Made us together alive with Christ (5)

2- Raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places

3- In His rich mercy, He saved us by grace through faith

What do we learn about the character of God from this passage? What are some of the key words used of God? (1-10)

This is an amazing passage on the character of God.

Wrath reveals that God is just. (3)

Rich in mercy

Great love

Powerful enough to make us alive

Ruler of all, enthroned in heaven

Eternal ("coming ages")

Kindness

Gift giver

Creator

Designed of each person and their days

How does Paul (the author) make the case that it is God who "made us alive" and "saves" us, i.e., that we do not save ourselves? (5-10)

- We couldn't save ourselves as we were dead and enslaved
- It was only because of God's mercy and grace
- Grace alone 3X
- He did things that only God can do
- In the coming ages, we will show again that He saved us out of love, mercy, and grace
- By grace through faith. Our salvation is "not our own doing"
- Salvation is a gift of God
- He is our creator

What do you think and feel when you read this passage? Which descriptions of God stand out to you? If you are a follower of Jesus, how can you see that God has been at work in your life?

I hope you can share together on this question.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

The wrath of God is sometimes thought to show that God isn't truly loving. One might hear, 'How can a loving God also have wrath?' As you look at our passage, what do you think? How would you answer this idea? (Note that in verse three and four, the wrath of God is immediately followed by the God of "rich mercy" and "great love.")

Verse four begins with a stark adversative: "But God." What are the gracious things that God has done for us? How do you think that the people in 'our worlds' might respond if they knew this about God? What can we do to build trust to help them know this?

Some have suggested that we need to hear the 'good news' daily. What do you think they mean? How would this help us know and follow Jesus?

We all have friends who have ideas about what we need to be or do to be acceptable to God and get into heaven. What does this passage teach us about our need to 'earn' our way in?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

It takes about two minutes to read Ephesians 2:1-10. Perhaps read this passage every day this week. Ask God to help you fully know His kindness and grace. As you think about what He has done for us, walk through your days with a silent prayer of thankfulness.

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for our church family as we love each other and the people in our worlds
- Pray for our small group leaders (High School, Middle School, Women, Men, Home Groups) as they shepherd God's family at Trinity Church to love each other and make disciples
- Pray for our Missions Teams as they help us partner with people in the world to make disciples

Praying that God will use you to bring Him praise, strengthen disciples, and live in the amazing truth.
Steve