

Bible Sunday Sermon

11-16-25

“Grace Upon Grace”

Ephesians 2:1–10

Opening Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, we come before You hungry for Your Word. Open our hearts to Your truth. Let Your Spirit illuminate the amazing grace that has saved us, changed us, and now lives in us. Teach us, shape us, and draw us closer to Jesus. In His precious name we pray—Amen.

INTRODUCTION

There is a phrase in John 1:16 that many Christians love to quote:

John 1:16 NIV

Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

Some translations say “grace upon grace.” It means wave after wave of God’s goodness breaking over our lives—grace to save us, grace to forgive us, grace to change us, grace to sustain us, grace to use us, grace to keep us until the day we see Jesus face-to-face.

Paul gives us one of the clearest pictures of this in Ephesians 2:1–10, where he takes us from:

1. Who we were
2. What God did
3. Who we are now in Christ
4. What God wants to do through us

It is a journey from death to life... from wrath to mercy... from emptiness to purpose... from darkness to destiny. Let’s walk through it verse by verse.

1. OUR PAST — DEAD, LOST, AND HOPELESS (Ephesians 2:1–3)

Ephesians 2:1 NIV

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

Paul doesn't say you were sick, struggling, or misguided. He says you were dead.

A dead person cannot fix anything, earn anything, or change anything. Spiritually, before Christ, we had:

No life

No power

No spiritual desires

No ability to save ourselves

We weren't drowning in the ocean—we were at the bottom of it.

Verse 2

Ephesians 2:2 NIV

in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

We followed whatever the world said:

“Do what feels good.”

“Live for yourself.”

“Truth is whatever you want it to be.”

We followed the enemy’s lies without even knowing it.

Verse 3

Ephesians 2:3 NIV

All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

That's the human condition. That's where Jesus found us.

Grace upon grace begins not with how good we were, but how lost we were.

You cannot appreciate the beauty of salvation until you understand the hopelessness of where you were.

2. GOD'S INTERVENTION — “BUT GOD...” (Ephesians 2:4–7)

Two of the greatest words in the Bible: “But God.”

Verse 4

Ephesians 2:4 NIV

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

God didn't save you because you tried harder, promised to do better, or cleaned yourself up.

He acted because:
He is rich in mercy
He is overflowing in love
He is full of compassion
Verse 5

Ephesians 2:5 NIV
made us alive with Christ even when we
were dead in transgressions-it is by
grace you have been saved.

Not grace plus your performance. Not
grace plus church attendance. Not grace
plus spiritual feelings. Not grace plus your
background.
Just grace. Only grace. Grace upon grace.

Verse 6

Ephesians 2:6 NIV

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

This is positional truth. In Christ, your citizenship, identity, and destiny are not earthly—they are heavenly.

You are not fighting for victory; you are fighting from victory.

Verse 7

Ephesians 2:7 NIV

in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

If you think God has been gracious now, wait until eternity. He will spend forever unfolding more grace, more blessing, more joy, more glory.

Salvation is not the end of grace — it's the doorway to endless grace.

3. OUR SALVATION — THE GIFT OF GOD (Ephesians 2:8–9)

Verse 8

Ephesians 2:8 NIV

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-

Not from yourselves. Not earned. Not maintained by human effort.

Jesus did not come to make bad people good— He came to make dead people alive.

Grace is not a paycheck. Grace is not an installment plan. Grace is a gift.

Verse 9

Ephesians 2:9 NIV

not by works, so that no one can boast.

Heaven will have no bragging rights except one: **“Jesus did it all.”**

Religion says, “Try harder.”

Grace says, “Trust Jesus.”

Religion says, “Do this and maybe God will love you.”

Grace says, “God loves you, now follow Him.”

Religion leaves you exhausted.

Grace leaves you transformed.

4. OUR PURPOSE — GOD’S
WORKMANSHIP (Ephesians 2:10) Verse
10 (NIV)

Ephesians 2:10 NIV

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The word “workmanship” is the Greek word poiēma—this is where we get the word poem.

You are God’s poem. God’s artwork.

God’s masterpiece.

Not because you’re perfect, but because His grace is perfect.

Grace saves us — but grace also shapes us. We don’t do good works to be saved; We do good works because we are saved.

God has prepared:

People for you to reach

Needs for you to meet

Encouragements for you to give

Places for you to serve

Opportunities for you to shine in Christ

Your life is not an accident. Your calling is not random. Your purpose is not small. Your story is not over. You are walking in grace, through grace, by grace— and your whole life becomes a testimony of grace upon grace.

CONCLUSION

Ephesians 2:1–10 shows us the whole Gospel:

Our past: dead in sin

God's intervention: rich in mercy

Our salvation: by grace through faith

Our purpose: created for good works

Grace saved you. Grace sustains you. Grace strengthens you. Grace empowers you. Grace will carry you home. It is truly “grace upon grace.”

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for the amazing grace that has saved us, forgiven us, and made us alive in Christ. Help us to walk in the good works You prepared for us. Fill us with Your Spirit, use our lives for Your glory, and let us never forget the grace that rescued us. In Jesus' mighty name—Amen.