

Approximately Expository 40 minutes




## ★Ephesians Chapter 2 “From Death to Life, From Strangers to Family”:


### Opening Prayer:


**Father God, we come before You in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank You for Your Word, which is living and powerful. Open our hearts today to understand the riches of Your grace. Help us see who we were without Christ, who we are now in Christ, and how You have brought us near by the blood of Jesus. Teach the new believer, strengthen the mature believer, and draw the lost person to salvation. We ask this in Jesus’ mighty name. Amen.**

★   **Historical Setting:**

The book of Ephesians was written by the apostle Paul while he was in prison, most likely in Rome around A.D. 60-62. Paul had spent significant time in Ephesus  **EFF-uh-sus** during his missionary journeys.

Ephesus was a major city in the Roman Empire, located in what is now modern-day Turkey.

Ephesus was wealthy, religious, and very pagan. It was famous for the temple of Artemis  **AR-tuh-mis**, one of the great wonders of the ancient world. The city was filled with idolatry, magic, immorality, and spiritual darkness. But right in the middle of that dark city, God planted a church.

 That reminds us of something very important:

- God can build His church anywhere.

- He can save people in dark places.
- He can transform lives in the middle of confusion, false religion, and sin.

In Ephesians chapter 1, Paul tells believers who they are in Christ. They are chosen, redeemed, forgiven, sealed with the Holy Spirit, and blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ.



Then in Ephesians chapter 2, Paul explains the miracle of salvation. He shows us where we were, what God did, and who we are now.

This chapter divides beautifully into three sections:

1. **We were dead in sin.**
2. **We are saved by grace.**
3. **We are brought near and made one family in Christ.**



  Let us dive deep into Ephesians chapter 2...

## ★1. We Were Dead in Sin:

  (NIV) ***Ephesians 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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.***

Paul begins with a hard truth:

**“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.”** (v.1)

  Notice Paul does not say we were sick. He does not say we were confused.

He does not say we were spiritually weak.  
He says we were “**dead**”.

👉 That is the condition of every person  
**before salvation.**

- Spiritually dead.
- Separated from God.
- Unable to fix ourselves.
- Unable to save ourselves.
- A dead person does not need improvement.
- 👉 A dead person needs life.

😬 This is why Christianity is not simply  
about becoming a better person.

- It is not just cleaning up your behavior,  
learning religious language, or attending  
church.

👉 Salvation is a miracle where God  
takes a spiritually dead sinner.... and  
makes that person... alive in Christ.

Paul says we used to follow “the ways of this world.”

- Before Christ, we lived according to the pattern of the world. That does not mean every unbeliever is as wicked as possible, but it does mean every unbeliever is living apart from God’s saving life.



The world says, “Follow your heart.”



The Bible says the heart is sinful and needs to be made new.



(NIV)



**Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.**



**Who can understand it?**



(NIV)

**Psalms 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

The world says, “Live your truth.”  
Jesus says, “I am the way and the truth and the life.”   (NIV) **John 14:6** <sup>6</sup> **Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”**


The world says, “You belong to yourself.”  
The Bible says we were created by God and for God.   (NIV) **Colossians 1:16**  
<sup>16</sup> **For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.**


Paul also says we were under spiritual influence:

★ **“the ruler of the kingdom of the air”**


(v.2)

 This refers to Satan.



 Behind the world's rebellion is a real spiritual enemy. The devil is not a cartoon character with a pitchfork. He is a deceiver, a liar, and a destroyer.

 He blinds minds, twists truth, and keeps people trapped in sin.

Paul also says we followed **“the cravings of our flesh.”** (v.3)

 That means sin is not only around us; sin is also within us.

- The problem is not only the world outside.
- The problem is the sinful nature inside.

  That is why mankind cannot be saved by education, politics, money, religion, or good intentions. The human problem is deeper than behavior. It is spiritual death.

Paul says **we were “by nature deserving of wrath.”** (v.3) That means God’s judgment against sin is righteous.

- God is loving, but He is also holy.
- He cannot simply overlook sin.
- Sin must be judged.

But praise God, Paul does not stop there.

## ★2. But God:

**Ephesians 2:4-7** <sup>4</sup> **But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,** <sup>5</sup> **made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—** **it is by grace you have been saved.** <sup>6</sup> **And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,** <sup>7</sup> **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.**

Verse 4 begins with two of the most powerful words in the Bible:

**“But because of his great love for us, God...”** (v.4)

We were dead ... **but God.**

We were lost ... **but God.**

We were guilty ... **but God.**

We were without hope ... **but God.**

👉 Salvation begins with God, not man.

- We did not climb up to Him.
- 👉 He came down to us.
- We did not earn His love.
- 👉 He loved us while we were still sinners.

Paul says God is **“rich in mercy.”** (v.4)

! Mercy means God does not give us the judgment we deserve. **Grace means** God gives us the **blessing we do not deserve.**

Because of His great love, God **“made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.”** (v.5)

- That is the new birth.
- That is regeneration.
- That is being born again.

🤔💭 When a person trusts in Jesus Christ, God gives spiritual life. The dead sinner becomes alive in Christ.

🤔💭 This is why Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3 that no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again**.



★📖✝️ (NIV) **John 3:3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”**

★

👉 Brothers and Sisters, we must never get over this. If you are saved, you are not



merely improved. You are resurrected spiritually. You were dead, and now you are alive.

Paul also says **...God “raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”** (v.6)

  Positionally, the believer is already seated with Christ.

- That means our identity is secure.
- Our salvation is anchored in Jesus.

We are still living on earth, still facing trials, still battling sin, but spiritually we belong to heaven.

  This fits beautifully with our **blessed hope**. As believers, we are looking for Jesus to come for His church.

We believe the Lord will rapture His church before the coming seven-year tribulation,

and afterward Christ will return to establish His millennial kingdom.

👉 But even now, before that day comes, our citizenship is already in heaven.

👉 We live on earth, but we belong to Christ.

Paul says God did this so that **“...in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace....”**<sup>(v.7)</sup>

In other words, throughout eternity, saved sinners will be trophies of God’s grace.

Heaven will **not** be filled with people bragging about themselves.

👉 Heaven will be filled with redeemed people worshiping Jesus and saying, **“Worthy is the Lamb!”**

### **★3. Saved by Grace Through Faith**





(NIV)

***8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.***

Now Paul gives one of the clearest explanations of salvation in the entire Bible:

***“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.”*** (v.8)

👉 Salvation is by grace. That means it is undeserved.

- You cannot earn it.
- You cannot buy it.
- You cannot work for it.
-   You can only receive it.

Paul says it is **“through faith.”** (v.8)

💡 Faith is trusting in Jesus Christ ....

- who He is,
- what He did on the cross,
- and that He rose again from the dead.

Then Paul makes it even clearer:

**“not by works, so that no one can boast.”** (v.9)



- Good works do not save us.
- Baptism does not save us.
- Church membership does not save us.
- Giving money does not save us.
- Being a “good person” does not save us.


👉 Only Jesus saves.

But then Paul says:

**“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works....”** (v.10)


So we are not saved **by** good works, but we are saved **“for”** good works.

 Good works are not the root of salvation.  They are the fruit of salvation.

- A changed life does not earn salvation.
-  A changed life gives evidence that salvation has truly happened.

God saves us by grace, and then He begins shaping us into the image of Christ.

**!** We become His workmanship. That word carries the idea of something God is personally making.

- You are not a mistake.
- You are not spiritual junk.
-  If you are in Christ, you are God’s workmanship.
- ✓ He is still working on you.
- ✓ He is still shaping you.

- ✓ He is still teaching you.
- ✓ He is still preparing you for the good works He planned for you.

#### ★ **4. Brought Near by the Blood:**



(NIV) **Ephesians 2:11-13**



***<sup>11</sup> Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—<sup>12</sup> remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.***

Paul now shifts from individual salvation to unity in the church.

He reminds the **Gentile believers** what they once were.

- They were separated from Israel's covenants.
- They were **“without hope and without God in the world.”** (v.12)

That is a dark description.

  Without Christ, people may have money, success, religion, and popularity, but they are still without true hope.

Then Paul says:

**“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”** (v.13)

 That is beautiful.

We were far away, but Jesus brought us near.



- Not by our goodness.
- Not by our background.

- Not by our effort.
  - 👉 But by His blood.

The blood of Christ is not a side issue. It is central to the gospel. **Jesus died as our substitute.** He paid the penalty for sin. His blood cleanses, redeems, and reconciles.

- There is no forgiveness without the cross.
- There is no salvation without the blood.
- There is no way **to the Father** .... except through Jesus.

## ★ 5. One New Humanity in Christ:

  (NIV) **Ephesians 2:14-18** <sup>14</sup> **For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,** <sup>15</sup> **by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose**

**was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.**

In the first century, there was deep division between Jews and Gentiles. The Jews had the law, the covenants, and the promises. The Gentiles were outside those covenant blessings.

But Jesus came to bring peace.

**“For he himself is our peace....”** (v.14)

Notice Paul does not simply say Jesus gives peace. He says Jesus **is** our peace.

Christ broke down the dividing wall of hostility. Through His death, He made believing Jews and believing Gentiles **one body**.

! This does not mean God is finished with Israel.

🤔 In a biblical, premillennial understanding, God still has promises for “national Israel” that **He** will fulfill.

Romans 11 teaches that God has not rejected His people.

👉 There is coming a future restoration of Israel, and Christ will reign from Jerusalem in **His millennial kingdom**.

🔓 But in the church today, Jew and Gentile believers are united in one body through Jesus Christ.

👉 The church is not Israel, and Israel is not the church, but both believing Jews and

believing Gentiles are saved the same way  
.... **by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.**

Paul says **...through Jesus“we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”** (v.18)

🤔 That is the Trinity in one verse: through Jesus the Son, by the Holy Spirit, to God the Father.

👉 That means the believer has access to God.

- You do not need to go through a Jewish Levi priest on earth to reach God.
- You do not need to earn your way into His presence.
- 👉 Because of Jesus, you can come boldly to the Father.

## ★ **6. No Longer Strangers:**

📖  (NIV) **Ephesians 2:19-22**

**19 Consequently, you are no longer**

***foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.***

Paul closes the chapter with a wonderful picture:

**“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people...”** (v.19)

- Before Christ, we were strangers. Now we are family.
- Before Christ, we were outsiders. Now we are citizens.

- Before Christ, we were far away. Now we are brought near.

Paul says we are members of God's household. The church is not merely an organization.

👉 It is a family.

- Believers are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Then Paul describes the church as a building, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.

🤔 🧠 In ancient construction, the cornerstone was the most important stone. Everything else was lined up with it. If the cornerstone was wrong, the building would be wrong.

🔒 🔑 Jesus is the cornerstone of the church.

- Not tradition.

- Not personality.
- Not politics.
- Not programs.
- Not denominations.

👉 Jesus Christ is the foundation and alignment of everything.

- If a church moves away from Jesus, it loses its center.
- If a ministry stops preaching Christ, it loses its purpose.
- If a believer stops building on Christ, life begins to shift in the wrong direction.

Paul says believers are being built together to become **“....a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”** (v.22)

! That is amazing.

🤔 Under the Old Covenant, God’s presence dwelled in the tabernacle and later in the temple.

👉 But now, under the New Covenant, God dwells in His people by the Holy Spirit.

The church is God's temple. Not a building made of brick and wood, but redeemed people filled with the Spirit of God.

★ **Invitation to Be Born Again:**

Now let me ask you personally: ... **Have you been made alive in Christ?**

Ephesians 2 says that apart from Jesus, we are dead in sin.

👉 That is serious.

But the good news is this: God is rich in mercy.



- Jesus died on the cross for your sins.
- He was buried.
- He rose again.
- And He offers salvation as a gift.

- 👉 You cannot save yourself.
- 👉 You cannot clean yourself up enough.
- 👉 You cannot earn heaven.

But Jesus has already done the work.

! Today, you can come to Him by faith.

- Admit that you are a sinner.
- Believe that Jesus died and rose again for you.
- Call on Him as Savior and Lord.

The Bible says in   (NIV) **Romans 10:13,**  
**“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**

- ✓ You can be born again today.
- ✓ You can pass from death to life.
- ✓ You can be forgiven, cleansed, adopted into God’s family, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

👉 Do not put it off. Jesus is calling. Come to Him now.

🙏 Let us Pray.....

**“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner.... I believe You died for me and rose again.... Forgive me.... Save me.... Rescue me from darkness.... Be my Lord and Savior.... I surrender to You.... Amen!**

👉 “If” you honestly meant that .... the Bible says you are forgiven.

👉 Welcome to the Family of God!!!

## **Conclusion:**

Ephesians 2 is one of the greatest chapters in the Bible because it tells our story.

➤ We were dead in sin.

👉 But God made us alive.

We were saved by grace through faith.

- We were far away.
- 👉 But Jesus brought us near.
- We were strangers.
- 👉 Now we are family.
- We were without hope.
- 👉 Now we are God's workmanship, built on Christ, filled by the Spirit, and waiting for the return of our Lord.

Brothers and Sisters, never get over grace.

- Grace found you.
- Grace saved you.
- Grace keeps you.
- Grace is shaping you.
- And one day, grace will bring you home.

### **Closing Prayer:**

 Let us Pray ....

**Father God, thank You for the truth of Ephesians chapter 2. Thank You that when we were dead in our sins, You loved us with great love. Thank You for Your mercy, Your grace, and the precious blood of Jesus Christ.**

**Lord God, help every believer remember who we are in Christ. Help us walk in the good works You prepared for us. Help us build our lives on Jesus, the chief cornerstone.**

**And for anyone who does not yet know You, we pray that today would be the day of salvation. Draw them by Your Spirit. Open their heart to the gospel. Help them call upon “Jesus” and be born again.**

**We love You, Lord. We thank You for saving us by grace through faith. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**