

# EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

## WEEK THREE EPH. 2:1-10

### Monday: The Walking Dead

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: Ephesians 2:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> 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**.

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **Dead** (Greek: *nekros*): spiritually inactive, indifferent to God & sin (Romans 5:12)
  - Though we are physically alive, without Christ we are spiritually dead in sin.
  - We inherited our sin nature from Adam (Romans 5:12-21)
  - Spiritual death means that we cannot do anything righteous or even believe in Christ for salvation without God first making us alive. Paul explains this further in Ephesians 2:4-5.
- **Transgressions** (Greek: *paraptōma*): fall beside or fall short (Romans 3:23)
  - Compared to a holy (perfect) God, we cannot measure up.
  - We might think of transgressions as missing the mark of holiness.
- **Sins** (Greek: *hamartia*): offense, violation (James 4:17; 1 John 4:10)
  - Similar to transgressions but with a different connotation.
  - Sin is an intentional act. We sin because, in the moment, we want to.
- **Used to Live:** we should not live in sin and the ways of the world anymore.
- **Ways of this World:** refers to the lifestyle/worldview of unbelievers
- **Ruler of the Kingdom of the Air:** this is a reference to Satan, our enemy
- **Disobedient** (Greek: *apeitheia*): obstinate opposition to God (Ephesians 5:6)
  - This is even a stronger term than transgressions and sins.
  - Disobedience is a strong opposition or rebellion against God.

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

You were dead. This sounds like really bad news. Many people don't like this part of the Gospel. However, if we believe that Christ has made us alive, then we must first have been dead. Why is this important? Because dead people can't take credit for their salvation. Dead people cannot save themselves. Dead people cannot believe. The good news is that God makes us alive so we can believe and be saved. That's why God gets all the credit for our salvation! We'll learn more about this in the next few days.

For now, consider these questions as you read over Ephesians 2:1-2 again:

**What "ways of the world" did you follow before God changed your life?**

**What areas of your life still need to change?**

**PRAY:** Ask God to forgive your sin and help you not to return to it.

# EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

## WEEK THREE EPH. 2:1-10

### Tuesday: Natural Born Sinners

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: Ephesians 2:3**

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**.

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **At One Time** (Greek: *pote*): previously, formerly
  - This phrase refers to our previous life as unbelievers.
  - What follows this phrase is not true of genuine believers.
- **Gratifying** (Greek: *poieō*): indulging, fulfilling (Galatians 5:16-21)
  - Before salvation we seek to please ourselves (our sin nature).
  - After salvation we seek to please God.
- **Cravings** (Greek: *epithymia*): intense desire or lust for sin (Romans 6:12)
  - Before salvation we cannot help but to sin because we want to sin.
  - After salvation God gives us the ability to say no to sin (Titus 2:12)
- **Flesh** (Greek: *sarx*): sin nature, devoid of desire for God (John 1:12-13; 3:6)
  - Flesh can be seen as both spiritual and physical.
  - Even our physical bodies pull us toward sin.
- **By Nature** (Greek: *physis*): original state, who we were before salvation
  - Can also be translated, "by birth."
  - This is why we need to be "born again" (John 3:3)
- **Deserving of Wrath** (Greek: *orgē*): natural result of our sin nature (Galatians 4:8)
  - Sin naturally deserves wrath from God. And that's a good thing.
  - We wouldn't want God to be passive with evil.

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

At one time we were unbelievers. We were sinners. Even worse, we loved sin. We craved the very things that were killing us. We followed our the desires and thoughts of our sin nature. Because of that we deserve God's wrath. God would have every right to leave us in our sin and destroy us. We have to understand this before we can begin to understand God's grace. Until we know how bad we are we cannot see how good God is.

**How does an accurate understanding of your sin help you to understand grace?**

**Have you ever thought of yourself as deserving of God's wrath? Why or why not?**

**What "desires and thoughts" do you still struggle with?**

**PRAY:** Ask God to give you the power daily to overcome your sin nature.

# EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

## WEEK THREE EPH. 2:1-10

### Wednesday: Made Alive

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: 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**.

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **Rich** (Greek: *plousios*): abounding, abundantly supplied (2 Corinthians 8:9)
- **Mercy** (Greek: *eleos*): kindness or good will toward us (Titus 3:5)
- **Made Us Alive** (Greek: *syzōopoieō*): brought back from death, like Christ (Col. 2:13)
  - Dead people cannot make themselves alive. Only God can make life.
  - If salvation depended on dead sinners, no one could be saved.
  - When God saves us we are brought from death to life (John 5:24).
  - We offer our new life back to God in daily worship (Romans 6:13; 12:1-2).
- **Grace** (Greek: *charis*): unmerited merciful kindness of God to save and keep us
- **Saved** (Greek: *sōzō*): kept safe and sound, preserved (Luke 19:10)
- **Raised** (Greek: *synegeirō*): raised to life together with Christ (Colossians 2:12)
- **Incomparable** (Greek: *hyperballō*): surpassing, immeasurable
- **Kindness** (Greek: *chrēstotēs*): moral goodness, integrity
  - God's kindness is what leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4)
  - **"in Christ Jesus"** - Christ is the perfect proof of God's kindness toward us.

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

Now that you've read about the bad news, it's now time for the good news! You were dead, but Christ has made you alive. God did this because of His great love for us and because He is rich in mercy. Our salvation is a result of God's grace alone. In His grace, which we didn't deserve, God made us alive with Christ. Not only that, God also gave us a seat in heaven next to Jesus! God no longer sees our dead sinfulness. God now sees Christ in us.

**What part of this passage is most encouraging to you? Why?**

**In what ways should this change how you live every day?**

**PRAY:** Thank God for being rich in mercy toward you.

# EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

## WEEK THREE EPH. 2:1-10

### Thursday: Saved By Grace

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> 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**.

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **By Grace** (Greek: *charis*): unmerited merciful kindness of God to save and keep us
  - Grace is unmerited because we couldn't earn it and don't deserve it.
  - Since we don't deserve it, grace is also not fair. Fairness is not the point.
- **Through Faith** (Greek: *dia pistis*): trust, confidence, conviction (Romans 1:17)
  - By grace God chooses to adopt us as His own.
  - Faith is the vehicle through which we respond to God's call.
- **Not from Yourselves** (Greek: *ou ek sy*): not original to you (Philippians 1:29)
  - Neither grace nor faith comes from ourselves.
  - Both are a gift given freely by God.
- **Gift of God** (Greek: *dōron*): grace & faith is given as a free gift from God (Acts 13:48)
  - Grace must be a gift. If it is earned, it is no longer grace (Romans 11:6)
  - Faith is also a gift because spiritually dead sinners cannot believe.
  - God gives us faith so we can come to Him (John 6:65).
- **Not by Works** (Greek: *ou ek ergon*): not as a result of our actions (Romans 11:6)
- **No One Can Boast** (Greek: *mē tis kauchaomai*): no one can take glory
  - Because salvation does not come from us, we cannot take credit for it.
  - God gets all the glory because it all comes from God.

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

Grace. Probably the most misunderstood word in scripture. An false view of grace leads us to take advantage of God. An accurate view of God's grace leads us to live a life of gratitude. When we realize that both grace and faith are gifts from God, it will change how we live. What God has done for us is clearly not from ourselves. Therefore, we cannot boast or live as if we did anything to earn or deserve grace.

**In what ways have you misused God's grace?**

**How should an accurate view of God's grace change how we live?**

**How does a false view of grace affect our faith?**

**PRAY:** Thank God for His grace and your faith. Ask Him to continue to give you both daily.

# EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

## WEEK THREE EPH. 2:1-10

### Friday: God's Handiwork

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: Ephesians 2:10**

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

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **Handiwork** (Greek: *poiēma*): workmanship, masterpiece in the making
  - Our lives are the result of God's working in us.
  - God's goal with us is the praise of His glory.
  - To achieve that goal God makes us like Christ.
- **Created** (Greek: *ktizō*): to make, form, mold (Ephesians 4:24)
  - Making us like Christ is a process.
  - While we should see some drastic changes immediately after salvation, some changes take time. Some changes take more time than others.
- **Good Works** (Greek: *agathos ergon*): acts, deeds
  - Our good works are for the benefit of others and God's glory (Matthew 5:16)
  - We should be devoted to doing good works (Titus 3:8)
  - Faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26)
- **Prepared in Advance** (Greek: *proetoimazō*): make ready beforehand (Romans 9:23)
  - God has a perfect blueprint (plan) for every life He created.
  - In Christ, every detail of life has a purpose behind it.
- **For Us to Do** (Greek: *peripateō*): to walk, make progress (Galatians 5:25)
  - If you're not growing (making progress), you're dead.
  - If we truly belong to Christ we will continually become more like Him.

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

For some people it may be difficult to believe that we are God's handiwork. But in Christ we are all a work in progress. God uses every moment of our lives to shape and mold us into His perfect design. Because God is a perfect Creator, we can rest assured that He will complete His creation. After all, God prepared all of this in advance. Therefore, we should see a strong level of growth in our lives. We should see more and more good works on display. This is not our doing, but rather God creating good works in and through us. Once again, God gets all the credit and all the glory!

**What good works do you see in your life?**

**What growth have you experienced in your good works?**

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you grow in your service to Him.

# EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

## WEEK THREE EPH. 2:1-10

### Saturday: Prepare for Sunday

**REVIEW:** Take a few minutes to make a list of what you've learned this week.

**PRAY:** Ask God to use this time to help you get familiar with Sunday's scripture passage.

**READ: Ephesians 2:11-22**

<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. <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. <sup>19</sup> 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.

**THINK:** *Go ahead and underline key words and phrases.*

Start thinking about what this passage is saying.

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What do you think is the main idea?
- What parts are confusing or hard to understand?
- How might this passage help you to follow Jesus better?

**PRAY:** Ask God to prepare you for tomorrow's worship service.