

Section 2 — Chapter 2 and 3

Introduction for Ephesians 2:1-10

The more we understand what we have been rescued from, the more we will appreciate the one Who rescues us. These verses remind me of where I was without Jesus and what He has done for me. What was your life like before you came to Jesus? Take a moment and think of your old lifestyle, habits, friends, and feelings.

Ephesians 2

- 1 Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins.
- 2 you used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the same spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.
- 3 All of us used to live that way, following the evil passions and desires of our evil nature. We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God's anger just like everyone else.
- 4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much,
- 5 that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's special favor that you have been saved!)
- 6 For he raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with him in the heavenly realms – all because we are one with Christ Jesus.
- 7 And so God can always point to us as examples of the incredible wealth of his favor and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us through Christ Jesus.
- 8 God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.
- 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.
- 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Here are some things that I see in these verses:

- verse 1 — I was spiritually dead.
 - verse 4 — God's love is greater than my greatest sin.
 - verse 5 — I have been made spiritually alive because of Jesus Christ.
 - verse 6-9 — Christ has saved me. It is not because of any good thing I have done. It is all because of His wonderful grace.
 - verse 10 — God has significant things for me to do.
-

SO...WHAT do you see?

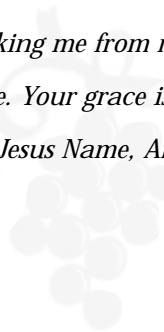
NOW...WHAT does God want you to be or do?

Your Response...WHAT will you say to God today?

My prayer...

*"Thank You for taking me from my old life to this new
incredible life. Your grace is truly amazing.*

In Jesus Name, Amen."



Introduction for Ephesians 2:11-22

This next section reminds me that a variety of walls once kept me separated from God. Every barrier that stood between us has been broken down. I am building a new life.

Ephesians 2

- 11 Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders by birth. You were called 'the uncircumcised ones' by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it effected only their bodies and not their hearts.
- 12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from God's people, Israel, and you did not know the promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.
- 13 But now you belong to Christ Jesus. Though you once were far away from God; now you have been brought near to him because of the blood of Christ.
- 14 For Christ himself has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us.
- 15 By his death he ended the whole system of Jewish law that excluded the Gentiles. His purpose was to make peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new person from the two groups.
- 16 Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.
- 17 He has brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and to us Jews who were near.
- 18 Now all of us, both Jews and Gentiles, may come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.
- 19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.
- 20 We are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself
- 21 We who believe are carefully joined together, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.
- 22 Through him you Gentiles are also joined together as part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Here are some things that I see in these verses:

- verses 11-12 — Before my decision to trust Jesus Christ, I was excluded from all of God's promises, totally lost. Hopeless!
- verse 13 — Praise God! I now have certain hope.
- verses 14-18 — God Himself is my peace. Jesus has broken down all that kept me from God and now I have direct access to God. I can have a personal relationship with Him.
- verses 19-21 — I am now a part of God's family.
- verse 22 — I am building my life on a new foundation.



SO...WHAT do you see?

NOW...WHAT does God want you to be or do?

Your Response...WHAT will you say to God today?

My prayer...

*"Thank You, Lord, for drawing me near
to Your presence, welcoming me into Your household,
and giving me a new life.*

In Jesus Name, Amen."

