

Friday

Read Ephesians 2:11-18. This is part of the text we plan to look at this coming weekend. The word “peace” is used four times in this short section. What seems to be Paul’s point?

How does an appreciation of God’s grace remove hostility and bring peace between groups who might otherwise be prejudiced against one another?

Ask God to help you see others through the eyes of Christ’s sacrifice, which can bring reconciliation and peace.

Saturday

Today, finish devotions you might have missed and brush up on that memory verse on the bottom of page three. And please pray for the services this weekend! Thanks!

Some questions this week were adapted from
NavPress LessonMaker and The Serendipity Study Bible.

Prayer Updates

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES this past week...

Gordon Coggins – out of ICU, recovering from heart surgery

Irvin Smith – home after months of hospitalization following pedestrian/car accident, stopped breathing in the middle of the night rushed back to hospital and remains in ICU, remember for Karen and family in your prayers

Jeremy Holmes (age 19, son of Tracy & Debbie) – thankfully has been moved out of ICU at UCSF, cancer complication, a blood infection compromised his kidneys requiring 4 hours of dialysis daily; because his kidneys are compromised his doctors are unable to run needed tests so Jeremy’s healthcare is at an impasse; pray that God will intervene with a solution

Linda Johnson – foot surgery 6/6

Recent hospitalizations / surgeries: Basil Fishback, Dorrell Smith, Kylie Black, Bob Shaw

Hospice Care: Roberly Bedayan (husband Bruce), Adrienne Gomes (husband Ryan, they have an infant & toddler)

HOME WITH THE LORD

Heartfelt prayer is extended to Jill Arthur in the loss of her father, Jack Edsberg, who was diagnosed with lung cancer one week after his wife’s death in January. Jill and her husband, Matt, brought them both into their home and lovingly cared for them.

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups – call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center. You can also subscribe to our online Prayer Update at www.tlc.org/profiles.

Destined for Greatness

Part 3: Ephesians 2:1-10
June 2 & 3, 2007 • René Schlaepfer



amazed.

Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going?

1. My past: I was _____ without Christ

*“As for you, you were **dead** in your transgressions and sins 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. **All of us** also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. **Like the rest**, we were **by nature** objects of wrath.”* Ephesians 2:1-3

Humanity’s basic problem: We’re _____!

2. My present: I am _____ in Christ

*“But because of his great **love** for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **made us alive** with Christ even **when we were dead** in transgressions — it is by **grace** you have been saved.”* Ephesians 2:4-5

Humanity’s basic need: _____!

*“For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through **faith** — and this **not from yourselves**, it is the **gift of God — not by works**, so that no one can boast.”* Ephesians 3:8-9

There is _____

The ultimate mind-blower: Even _____ is a gift!

3. My future: I have _____ from Christ

*“And **God raised us up** with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **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.”* Ephesians 2:6-7

*“For we are God’s **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus to do **good works**, which God **prepared in advance for us to do.**”* Ephesians 2:10

“workmanship” (Greek “poiema”): _____!

I have a _____ to do great works prepared in advance by God for me!

So what?

If I’m spiritually dead... I can **receive** God’s offer of life!

If I’m spiritually burned out... I can **rejoice** in God’s grace!

If I’m feeling purposeless... I can **refocus** on the God-opportunities awaiting me!

Review of Ephesians 1

**I AM BLESSED
WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING! (1:3)**
I AM HAND-PICKED BY GOD! (1:4)
I AM HOLY AND BLAMELESS IN HIS SIGHT! (1:4)
I AM ADOPTED AS GOD'S CHILD! (1:5)
**I AM FREE OF ALL SPIRITUAL DEBT, ALL PAID UP
BY CHRIST JESUS! (1:7)**
I AM FORGIVEN OF ALL MY SINS! (1:7)
I AM LAVISHED WITH GOD'S RICHES! (1:8)
I AM INCLUDED IN CHRIST! (1:13)
**I AM SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
FOR ETERNITY! (1:13)**

Daily Meditations

Monday

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What points or verses from this weekend's message really stood out to you?

What do you think God wanted you to take home from hearing this message?

Look at the review of Ephesians 1 above. Combined with the truths in Ephesians 2, how can your life change by knowing these things are true of you?

Thank God specifically for three truths you see in these verses!

Tuesday

Re-read Ephesians 2:1-3. This is the bad news! What does it mean to be "dead in sin"?

In these verses, what characteristics are true of those "dead in sin"?

continued 

Tuesday (continued)

The idea of "gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts" (verse 3) seems at first to be very liberating, but it turns into something "dead". Why?

How is our position helpless and powerless without Christ?

The idea of our own powerlessness to stop gratifying self-destructive urges is typically understood very well by people like those in 12-step addiction recovery groups, while more "upstanding" citizens resist the idea that they are powerless over their sinful nature. Why is this part of the gospel resisted by some and accepted by others?

Do you find it difficult or easy to accept Paul's description of our essential problem in these verses?

Thank God that, though you were powerless, He loves you so much He gave you life through Christ!

Wednesday

What was one of the best gifts you received as a child?

Re-read these verses about God's gift to you: Ephesians 2:4-9. This is the really good news! According to these verses, what was God's motivation to make us alive in Christ?

According to these verses, why can no one boast in his or her own salvation? Why do you suppose that some believers come across to others as arrogant or boastful in their salvation?

How would you describe God's rich grace in your life?

Today, thank God specifically for His grace, mercy, and riches lavished freely upon you!

Thursday

Re-read Ephesians 2:10. How is a believer God's "work of art"?

How are **you** God's "work of art"?

According to these verses, what is the purpose of God's workmanship?

How have you seen God's creative workmanship operating in your life in the way described in this verse?

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, what good work can you do as part of your destiny this week?

Ask God to help you keep your eyes open to the opportunities he has prepared in advance for you today!

over 



"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast."
Ephesians 2:8,9