



EPHESIANS

BLESSED • ACCEPTED • BELONG

*“So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.”
Ephesians 1:6 (NLT)*

LESSON 5: ALIVE IN CHRIST

There’s nothing as telling as good old “before and after” pictures, and that’s exactly what we find here in Ephesians chapter 2. Notice the word dead is repeated several times in our passage. That is Paul’s picture of us before we came to know Jesus Christ – dead! Fortunately for us, he doesn’t stop there. He paints another picture of us – a new woman in Christ – and then refers to us as God’s masterpiece. If you ever question if you are accepted or if you truly belong, this week’s scripture will settle that issue once and for all! Now is a great time to think back on the day you were saved – pause for a moment, and give thanks to God for His amazing grace poured out on the new you.

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer.

This Week’s Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10 (NLT)

¹Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else. ⁴But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) ⁶For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. ⁸God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

This Week's Memory Verse:

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus,
so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.
Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)*

1. The beginning of Ephesians chapter 2 talks about our condition without Jesus Christ. Write down those negative traits, keeping in mind that was what we were in the world before Jesus. _____

2. Notice two very important words that begins verse 4. What are they? _____

3. Beginning in verse 4 there is a list of wonderful blessings God has bestowed upon us. List them below.
 - a. Verse 4: _____
 - b. Verse 5: _____
 - c. Verse 6: _____
 - d. Verse 7: _____
 - e. Verse 8: _____
 - f. Verse 9: _____
 - g. Verse 10: _____
 - h. Of all the blessings listed above, which means the most to you and why? _____

4. Ephesians 2:8 says that we are saved by grace through faith. What does verse 9 tell us about our salvation?

5. In order to truly understand why God saved us, we must look to verse 10. What are we to God and what is His plan for our lives? _____

6. Do you believe that you are a masterpiece? You should because God’s word states it. To further understand your importance to God, look up Psalm 139:1-18 and note the wonderful declarations David wrote.

Reflect – Respond – Result

As we unpack another treasure chest of blessings this week, we see just how much we mean to God. He loves us! Not just in words but in deeds. Romans 5:8 tells us, “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” That means that even when we were all those negative things listed in the beginning of our study, God still loves us, and wants to bring us back into His loving arms. However sometimes whether out of shame or guilt, we do not embrace the forgiveness offered. King David had much to be forgiven for – murder, adultery, lies – just to name a few, but he still understood his value to God. In Psalm 103:12-13 he wrote, “For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.” Are you willing to embrace how much you mean to God, and by doing so, receive the many blessings He has to offer? Write your thoughts.
