

Studies in Ephesians

Lesson IV

TEXT: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in 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.

³All 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. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

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

Questions for Discussion

1. Verse 1 says "you were dead in your transgressions and sins." Who is in view here? What killed us (Rom. 7:9-11)? In what way were we dead? Was there anything you or I as dead people could do to return to life, apart from God's grace?
2. What are "the ways of this world"? (vv. 2-3; cf. 1 John 2:15-17).
3. Who is the "ruler of the kingdom of the air" and what does he have to do with the world system? (vs. 2; cf. John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 6:2)
4. What hope do we have to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil (vv 4-5; 1 John 4:4)? Who brings us back to life (vs. 4)? How does he give us new life? (vv. 4-6a; John 3:3-7; 13-18)? In summary, what does it mean to be saved (cf. vv. 1-7)
5. How are we saved (vv. 8-9)? What does not save us (vv. 8b-9a)?
6. Based on this passage, what is a good, working definition for the **grace** of God?
7. What are the implications of salvation? In other words, what happens next (vs.10; cf. vv 6-7)?