

L O V E

l n c o r r u p t i b l e

Introduction:

If you wanted to memorize one passage of scripture that could serve as an explanation of salvation, an evangelism tool, and a steadfast encouragement of God's love, this week's passage could be the winner!

Ephesians 2:1-3 is a straight-forward, heart-wrenching description of life without Christ. We were dead. Not sick, not bad - *really, spiritually dead*. We could do nothing to save ourselves, and even if we could, we wouldn't have wanted to. Our desires were our god. We committed 'cosmic treason,' and we deserved eternal wrath. It is vital that we earnestly consider the severity of our crime & punishment before we can truly celebrate the epic turn-around of verse 4: *But God...*

Salvation is entirely a work of God. In generous mercy, God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Christ. He didn't see our good works and offer salvation, he saw our death and offered to make us alive in Christ. We were walking in disobedience, and now we can walk in the good works he has prepared for us. Because he generously showered us with undeserved grace, we can extend grace to others and live a Christ-exalting life now. And in the coming ages, we will continue to celebrate the sacrifice and grace of the work of Christ.

This Week's Main Point:

The cause of salvation is grace. The means of salvation is faith. The effects of salvation are good works. The promise of salvation is this: what God has started, he will finish!

To help you examine this passage, here are a few grammatical highlights: these ten verses are actually only three sentences. One sentence of 124 words makes up the first seven verses. The noun, "God," does not show up until verse 4 and the primary verb, "made alive," appears in verse five. The direct object of the sentence, however, shows up immediately in verse one: "you." Essentially the sentence says: God - made alive - you. The rest of the sentence is filling in the why and how. The last two sentences, both starting with the word "For" in most English Bible's, use that conjunction to show the implications of God making sinners alive.

Paul structured these words this way because he knew that only when we dwell on our life before Christ are we able to value the supreme gift of our salvation. Furthermore, we remember how Christ saved us so that we will never trust in our own works for salvation or favor with God.

This Week's:

- Scripture Passage: [Ephesians 2:1-10](#)
- RightNow Media Video: [Session 3](#)

RightNow Media Video Recap:

1) In the video, Pastor J.D. mentioned two myths that our culture believes about evil. What are they?

2) How are you prone to make excuses for sinful behavior? In what ways do you trust in your own efforts?

L O V E

l n c o r r u p t i b l e

Bible Study Questions: (Read Ephesians 2:1-10)

3) Make a list of what this passage says in verses 1-3 about being spiritually dead.

4) Summarizing question #3, when someone is spiritually dead, what three sources are controlling how they live according to this passage?

5) What do verses 4-10 say God has done for those who believe the gospel?

6) According to the passage, *why* does God save believers?

7) Think of this passage as a theological timeline. List what has happened in the past, what's going on now, and what we can expect to happen in the future.

8) What do verses 9-10 teach us about good works?

L O V E

l n c o r r u p t i b l e

Group Application Questions:

9) We sometimes struggle to see the severity of sin and death in those we love most (our kids, our family, our friends, and ourselves.) How does an appreciation for verses 1-3 transform the way you view your salvation, the need to share the gospel with your kids, friends, etc...

10) Break into groups of 3-4. Practice using Ephesians 2:1-10 to explain the gospel to a non-Christian child, friend, or family member in one minute.

Prayer:

This year we are focusing on making disciples. The life of a disciple begins when someone trusts in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

To help focus our minds on evangelism, we are asking, “**Who’s your one**” meaning who is the one person that you are specifically praying for and seeking to share the gospel with?

This week for prayer:

- Break into groups of 3-4.
- Share your “one,” the person you are hoping to share the gospel with.
- Pray Ephesians 2:1-10 for them.