



Ephesians Lesson 2

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Stop striving. Start Living

- **Before Christ: Dead, not damaged (2:1-3)**
- **But God: Saved by grace, not performance (2:4-10)**
- **Belonging: Brought near and built together (2:11-22)**



“Dead” or “being dead” conveys the solemn fact that man by nature is devoid of even one living principle **God-ward.** *What the Bible Teaches*, p. 132, A. Leckie

In the 2025 State of Theology survey from Ligonier Ministries and Lifeway Research, a majority of self-identified evangelical respondents agreed with the statement:

“Everyone sins a little, but most people are good by nature.”

— about 53% agreed in the survey results.

Scriptures Say Otherwise:

- Ephesians 2:1-3 - all in need of God's grace
- Romans 3:23 - *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*
- Romans 3:10 *"There is none righteous, not even one."*
- Romans 8:5-7 - *"mind set on flesh is hostile to God..."*

Before Christ: Dead, not damaged

- Enslaved to the world, the flesh, and the devil
- Shaped by the world
- Drive by our own desires
- Separated from God
- Dead

**Dead people do not fix themselves.
They are made alive.**

"But God..."

Before (Our Condition)	After (God's Action in Christ)
Dead in transgressions (v. 5)	Made alive with Christ (v. 5)
Under sin and judgment (vv. 1-3)	Saved by grace (v. 5)
Spiritually powerless	Raised up with Christ (v. 6)
Earthbound and separated	Seated with Christ in the heavenly places (v. 6)
Deserving wrath	Shown the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness (v. 7)

New Life Now	New Position	New Way of Living	Future Resurrection Guaranteed
Spiritual resurrection: No longer spiritually dead, alive to God	Standing before God is changed.	Resurrection life changes how we live	Spiritual resurrection now guarantees our physical resurrection later
Romans 6:4 "...so we too might walk in newness of life"	Ephesians 2:6 "...raised us up with Him"	Romans 6:11 "...consider yourselves alive to God in Christ Jesus"	Romans 6:5 "...we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His."
Colossians 2:12-13 "...you were raised with Him through faith...God made you alive with Christ"	Colossians 3:1 "If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above"	Galatians 2:20 "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."	1 Corinthians 6:14 "God raised the Lord and will also raise us"
John 5:24 "...has passed out of death into life."	Romans 8:1 "There is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus"	2 Corinthians 5:15 "...that those who live might no longer live for themselves"	1 Peter 1:3 "...born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

Grace through faith

- Grace is **not** wages
- Grace is **not** a reward
- Faith **is** a gift
- Faith does not **achieve** salvation.
- Faith **receives** salvation.



HOW MUCH?

- **NEW RELATIONSHIP STATUS! FREE!!!**
- **HOPE OF GLORY OF GOD! FREE!!!**
- **REJOICE IN SUFFERINGS! FREE!!!**
- **LOVE OF GOD WHILE A SINNER!
FREE!!!**
- **RECONCILIATION THROUGH JESUS!
FREE!!!**

BUT WAIT!

- **FREE FROM WRATH!**
- **FREE FROM REIGN OF DEATH!**
- **ABUNDANT GRACE!**
- **FREE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!**
- **ETERNAL LIFE!**
- **ALL THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!**

Pray 1-800-DEA-RGOD

NO INSTALLMENTS! FREE!



AVAILABLE TO JEWS AND GENTILES!

SALVATION GUARANTEED!

AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE USE...NO SHIPPING
AND HANDLING



ACT NOW!

**For we are His
workmanship,**

**His work, not our DIY
project**

created in Christ Jesus

**New creation, not self-
improvement**

for good works,

**Purpose, not
performance**

**which God prepared
beforehand**

**Our lives aren't
accidental**

**so that we would walk in
them**

**A steady, grace-filled way
of living**



**Walk in God's pathway
one faithful step at a time**

**Good works do not *save*
us,
but salvation *produces*
good works.**

**We live *from* grace, not
for grace.**

Before Christ	After Christ
Dead and far (v. 12)	Made alive and brought near (v. 13)
Divided and hostile (v. 14)	One new people in peace (vv. 14-15)
Without God (v. 12)	Reconciled to dwell with Him (v. 16)

**You are not a guest in God's house.
You are part of what He is building.**

**Am I living from what He's already
done?**

**Will you, will I, choose to stop
striving and start living?**