

Ephesians 2:1-10 (New International Version)

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^[a] 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.

Footnotes:

- a. [Ephesians 2:3](#) Or our flesh

OASIS: Ephesians 2: 1-10

Possible Starter question: What do you **like best about working**, whether it be in and around the home, or in some other entirely different setting?

Transitional comment: (☺ It really can't be that bad, can it?) Our passage today is a really important passage about our spiritual lives—but interestingly, it also has relevance to God's work and our work. Let's dig in.

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's leading (if you haven't already prayed)
- Now let's listen/follow along as someone reads our passage aloud.
(Since this section is so dense, give the group a few minutes to read and study it individually, quietly.)

First section (vs. 1-3):

- O Who is Paul describing? (make sure to include both v. 1 and v. 3)
- O In these first three verses, what are some of the words, phrases and ideas used to describe the state or condition of these people?
- O What are some of the influences and compelling forces that are active? In what ways are people responding or even cooperating?
- O What phrases seem to summarize “the bottom line”?
 - I How would you summarize this section?
 - A In what ways do you see these realities expressed in our society and world?
 - A Are there particular ways that you have identified these tensions in your life, past or present?

Second section (vs.4-10):

- O What is the big surprise in vs. 4-5? What is the great reversal?
 - I Why would God do this?
- O In v. 6, what is our current reality?
 - I What do you think this means? What difference might it make to us?
- O What is the future promise expressed in v. 7?
- O What is the crucial spiritual dynamic that Paul emphasizes in vs. 8-9? What contrasts are used—and for what reasons?

I In your own words, what is the difference between salvation through faith versus salvation through works/performance?

A Unfortunately, it is all too easy to allow a “saved by works” mentality sneak into our identities. Have you even noticed that in yourself? (if so, in what way?)

O What do you learn about work in v. 10? Who is involved?

I Can you think of any connection between this verse and the Lord’s Prayer that we recently studied? Where is the overlap?
(*n.b. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...*)

A What practical difference does this make in our attitude and approach to working in this world?

Summary/conclusion:

O What are some the ways that God has acted on our behalf in this passage?

A What are some of the appropriate ways we can respond?

A Let’s pray for one another accordingly!

Text is on other page or www.Biblegateway.com

- a. BIG idea: **When we put our trust in Christ, we become new creatures in Christ’s new creation and we are called to participate with Christ in making all things new.**
- b. Key verse/idea: **Eph. 2:10: “created in Christ Jesus to do good works...”**
- c. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge).

Advice to study leaders:

- d. Complement your OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? What do others of you see/think?)
- e. Determine the core questions you’ll ask (know which ones to skip if pressed for time.
- f. Always reword questions in language/word choice that is comfortable for you (and, if the question doesn’t make sense to you, then discard it.)
- g. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. How long do you wait? Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- h. Timing: allocate your time and move forward gently but steadily.
- i. Pace the study—move on—conclude with “difference making” application.
- j. Secondary texts—be very sparing in your usage of other texts, even though they may be relevant. That tends to push you more into the “teaching” role, rather than the role of facilitator. It can cause some people to feel distracted or de-powered.
- k. If you are utilizing this “on-line” study and not part of the OASIS course, I recommend that you get the IVP one volume commentary entitled New Bible Commentary, Revised (21st Century Edition). It is well worth the \$40.