

## Eph 2:1-10

LIFEgroup questions:

In these verses Paul is retelling the journey that these gentile Christians have been on.

### **QUESTION:**

*How do you view your past is it something you remember fondly or something you want to forget? How relevant or irrelevant is it to who you are today?*

In retelling their story Paul presents **the problem, the solution & the fruit**

### **QUESTION: Read v1-3 - THE PROBLEM**

*What challenges you in these words?  
How do they fit with your own experience?*

### **QUESTION: Read v4-5 - THE SOLUTION**

The problem is met with a demonstration and description of God's work, character and nature.

*Find three words in these verses that sum up the character of God, what does each one mean for sinful people like us?*

*How do these verses encourage you?*

### **QUESTION: Read v5-6 & - THE FRUIT**

*'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do'*

*How do these words encourage you?*

*What do they say about your future life of discipleship?*

**TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER!**

## SERMON NOTES:

Paul is retelling the journey that these gentile Christians have been on.

They live in a city where Jesus is not honoured & dark spiritual place (see Acts 19). In this city there had been an out pouring of the Holy Spirit, and many have come to accept Jesus. (Which in turn had lead to opposition). A church is growing!

In retelling their story Paul presents **the problem, the solution & the fruit**

Lets look at this story....

### **THE PROBLEM (v1-3)**

(Read NLT - version)

In these verses he presents the problem that everyone [Ephesian gentiles (the word 'you') & Jews experience)...

***'you were dead in your transgressions and sins'***

Paul uses 2 words Transgressions ('paraptōma' - *deviation from the truth, wilful offence*) & Sin ('hamartia' - *miss the mark or wander from the path*). Combined cover the whole sense of a life lived without God. SIN. things done & left undone - (write capitals)

*Reflection:* We are often concerned with specific sins - we could all list them. But Paul suggests these specifics are SYMPTOMS of a deeper issue.

The deeper issue is what controls us, the direction we are going, the path we are following - the way of the world & the devil. (v2)

He goes onto write the deepest issue is what is driving us on the INSIDE - **What's is in my heart & mind** ... cravings of our flesh ('sarx' - *the flesh, denotes mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God*), selfish desires and thoughts (v3)...

Ultimately it is living a life independently of God, following a path with 'I' in the middle.... Self centred... not surrendered to God. Living life my way, my rules, my desires, my choice.....

**THIS HAS A CONSEQUENCE** - (illustrate)

Choices & ways of life have consequences. When we make life choices there are consequences... - driving, smuggling drugs.

The ultimate consequence of SIN is that we are separated from God. That separation is **spiritual death**. 'Deserving of wrath' - dead in sin.

Wow.... That's pretty bleak!

### **THE SOLUTION (v4-5)**

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

But... God loved us so much.... He did not leave us in this state -

Rich in mercy - (define). He withheld the consequence of sin.

**NOT RECEIVING WHAT WE DO DESERVE**

Grace (define) - a gift...

**RECEIVING WHAT WE DON'T DESERVE.**

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we become **united** with Jesus, we rise from death to life. The consequence of Sin is covered... we are IN CHRIST.... CHRIST IN US...

*Visual - Paint sin to SON*

### **THE FRUIT: (v5-6 & 10)**

*'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do'*

New life. (v5)

Raised up. (V6)

Works of art (v10)

A purpose to fulfil (v10)

God has now given us:

**WE NOW HAVE A FUTURE.**

**WE ARE CREATED A NEW**

**WE HAVE BECOME GODS MASTERPIECE - A WORK OF ART**

**TO DO THE GOOD THINGS HE HAS PLANNED FOR US!**