



ENOGERA BAPTIST CHURCH
Jesus changes lives

EPHESIANS: PART #1 SALVATION



Ephesians #6 – We Are Saved (2:8-10)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God”

Ephesians 2:8

NOTE FOR LEADERS

This document is intended to be used as a discussion *guide*, rather than a curriculum. As small group leaders, please feel free to lead through the topic as most appropriate for your group.

HOUSEKEEPING

Things going at the moment:

- **Church Working Bee** – 5th October at 7:30am
- **Alpha Course! Thursday nights – Be praying for us**
 - **Pray** – God’s Spirit to draw people and open up their hearts.



EPHESIANS #6 – WE ARE SAVED (2:8-10)

REFLECT

This is a time to generate some discussion by reflecting on the ideas in this week's message. Some ideas include:

- Ask the group to debrief for those who have missed the sermons on Sunday
- What stood out? Do you have any questions?
- Were there any special moments of clarity where God spoke to you clearly?

DIG INTO THE WORD

Let's dig a little deeper. Use the biblical text to discover what God reveals to us in his Word.

Ephesians 2:1-7 ¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8-10 ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Matthew 22:36-39 ³⁶“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives. Get group members to talk about the real-life implications of the study.

1. **DISCUSS:** How are we to apply these things? Are there any immediate implications?
2. **SALVATION GIFTED BY GRACE:** Read verse 8.
 - a. What are we saved from? (Read verses 1-3)
 - b. Why do we struggle to understand grace?
 - c. How do we corrupt the true nature of grace if we misunderstand it?



3. **SALVATION RECEIVED THROUGH FAITH:** Read verses 8-9.

- a. What is Faith?
 - i. **Knowledge** (head knowledge), **Heart response** (relationship – knowledge that becomes relational), and **Commitment** (Trusting in who God is reliable and true, and thereby giving up all you have and receiving grace through faith).
- b. What happens in our relationship with God when we try to gain salvation through works? (This can happen to well-meaning Christians who forget it is by faith)
 - i. *Negative – hard to approach God, we see how much we fail and fall short of his standard, wasted effort because we aren't saved by works.*
- c. What happens in our relationship with God when we gain our salvation through Faith?
 - i. *Positive – We can approach God because of His Son's perfect works, not our own, we receive a secure relationship based on God's faithfulness/gift of grace, not our own faithfulness/works.*

4. **SALVATION LIVED BY GOOD WORKS:** Read verse 10

- a. *We are created as something new. We are no longer dead but made alive in Christ for Good Works. Mimicking who it is we're created in (Jesus), what are these good works we should do? (Read Matt 22:36-39)*
 - i. *Love your God*
 - ii. *Love your neighbour as yourself (in the Church and in the world)*
- b. **LEADERS: Work through with your group how it is that we as a Church can love our neighbours better. Get ultra-practical: some ideas... But add more to the list as a group.**
 - i. *Aim to be at Church 15 minutes early if you aren't serving so you can talk with our new comers who often arrive 15minutes early to service.*
 - ii. *If you're not serving in a ministry, sign up for one. The church would love to be blessed by your works (Kid's min, Coffee Kart, Music Team, Tech Team, Welcome team, Home Group Leaders, Morning Tea Team)*
 - iii. *Signing up for the cooking roster for new families/people in need.*
 - iv. ...
- c. How are you consciously seeking after these 'good works' that God has prepared for you?

5. **REFLECT:** Read verse 10.

- a. Salvation gives you a new purpose: to serve God by doing the good works he prepared for you. Take some time to reflect on whether or not you seek to do the good works God has prepared for you. Are you living as His newly made workmanship, or are you still walking in the old ways that you were saved from?

Helpful Definitions:

Grace: *God's unmerited favour or undeserved kindness towards us.*

Faith: *Trust in a reliable God to keep his promise that you are saved by grace through faith.*

PRAY

Pray for one another as we seek to embrace our true identity in Christ.



Spend some time in prayer giving thanks to God for the salvation He has provided for us in Christ, and for the good works he has prepared for each of us that we should walk in them.

NOTES

1:3–3:21 *Calling of the Church Within Christ's Cosmic Reconciliation.* Paul unfolds for his readers God's eternal plan to unify all things in Christ, and explains how the church is to understand its call and identity—who it is, how it came about, and what its mission is within this plan.

2:1–10 *Made Alive in Christ.* Paul wrote earlier of God's plan to unite all things under the headship of Christ (1:10). He now explains how God will accomplish his purposes, beginning with the reconciliation of individuals to God. This section contrasts the believers' sinful past (vv. 1–3) with their present salvation in Christ (vv. 4–7) and affirms the grace of God as the basis of this salvation (vv. 8–10). The presence of a "we-you" contrast continues the theme of 1:11–14. Both Jews and Gentiles are in the same predicament without Christ, and both share the same privileges in Christ. Paul's description of the salvation of believers is thoroughly God-centered. God initiates our salvation, his love and mercy motivate it, and his grace grounds it. Ultimately, the display of God's grace is the purpose of our salvation.

2:8 by grace you have been saved. This phrase first occurs in v. 5 and is repeated here for emphasis. Grace is the basis and cause of our salvation (Rom 3:24; 11:6; Titus 3:7). It is God's unmerited favor toward those who have transgressed his commandments and deserve his wrath. We could not help ourselves because "we were dead" (Eph 2:5). **through faith.** Faith, itself a gift of God, is the human response by which we receive God's salvation. It is a confident trust in God whereby we refuse to justify ourselves based on our achievements but gratefully receive what God has already accomplished in Christ (see Rom 3:21–31). **this.** The process of salvation by grace through faith. **not from yourselves.** Human effort can never contribute to our salvation. **the gift of God.** Salvation, including our faith (Phil 1:29), is God's initiative and activity; it is entirely "the gift of God" (cf. Titus 3:5).

2:9 works. Any human effort; equivalent to "works of the law" (Rom 3:20, 28) in a Jewish context. **boast.** God's salvation excludes any human boasting (1 Cor 1:26–31). We should instead boast in the Lord (2 Cor 10:17; Gal 6:14)—in his glory (Eph 1:3–14), grace (2:7), and wisdom (3:10).

2:10 handiwork. The Greek word can connote the skillful work of a craftsman. **created.** The transformation of believers from death to life is so radical that it is considered a new act of creation (4:24; 2 Cor 5:17). The scope of this new creation is more than the individual. It also includes the community of faith (vv. 14–16; Gal 6:15), and, together, the new creation of the individual and the community anticipates that of the cosmos (Eph 1:10; Rom 8:18–25). **for us to do.** Or "that we should walk in them." The occurrence of the Greek for "walk" here and in v. 2 contrasts our former and present lifestyles. Instead of "walking" in "transgressions and sins" (v. 1), God has created us anew to



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“walk” in “good works.” These good works are not the basis of but the evidence of God’s new creative work in us.¹

REFERENCE:

Developed with the help of the following:

- ESV Study Bible, Crossway.
- NIV Zondervan Study Bible.

¹ Moo, D. J. (2015). [The Letters and Revelation](#). In D. A. Carson (Ed.), *NIV Zondervan Study Bible: Built on the Truth of Scripture and Centered on the Gospel Message* (p. 2402). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.