

Ephesians 2:1-9

Made Alive in Christ

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,² in 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.³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh^[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Footnotes:

1. [Ephesians 2:3](#) In contexts like this, the Greek word for *flesh* (*sarx*) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit.

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1. Define grace. Can you think of an instance where you witnessed someone giving grace to another? Share your memory with the group.
 2. Read Ephesians 2:1-9
 3. What does it mean to be “dead in your transgressions and sins”? How had the recipients of Paul’s letter been living?
 4. Who is the “ruler of the kingdom of the air”?
 5. What does it mean to be “objects of wrath”?
 6. Contrast the description given of God with the description of man in these verses.
 7. According to these verses, what is the gift God gives us?
 8. Is there a relationship between grace and works? If so, what is it?
 9. Take some time to reflect on God’s grace poured out for you. Thank Him for his beautiful gift. In response to God’s gift of grace to you, can you think of someone in your own life that you need to gift with God’s grace? What is one thing you can do this week to show God’s grace to someone in your life?