



**WHO IN THE WORLD
DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?**

A STUDY IN EPHESIANS

But God... (Part 1)

Ephesians 2:1-5

Introduction

Every spiritual blessing in Christ

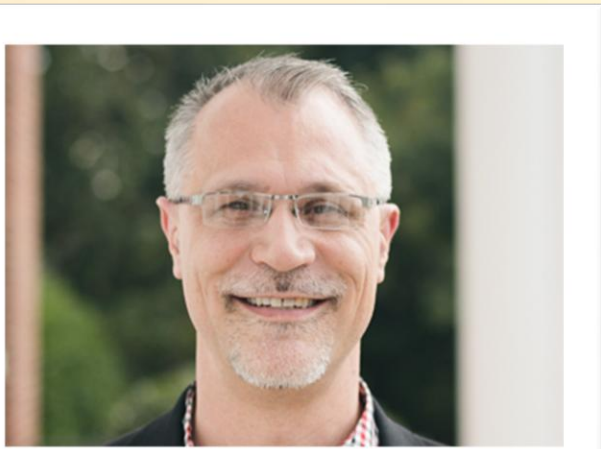
- being chosen by God
- predestined for adoption as sons
- being redeemed by His blood
- receiving forgiveness for our sins
- being sealed with the Holy Spirit

v. 6: “to the praise of the glory of his grace”

v. 12: “for the praise of his glory”

v. 14: “to the praise of his glory”

“This section is a practical example of how God’s power, demonstrated in the resurrection and enthronement of Christ, is at work in the life of the believer.”



Benjamin Merkle
ESV Expository Commentary

“.. these verses are a commentary on Eph 1:19, in that the great power toward us has been demonstrated *historically* in Christ and is *now* being demonstrated by making sinners into saints.”



Harold Hoehner,
Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary

Key Point

**“It is by grace that you
have been saved”**

The beginning of chapter 2 is one of the most pivotal portions of the apostolic writings dealing with the question of our sinful nature. It explains human corruption in a way which, with the possible exception of segments of Romans,



R.C. Sproul
The Purpose of God: Ephesians

underscores more heavily than any other part of the New Testament our total dependence upon the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in bringing us to spiritual life.



R.C. Sproul
The Purpose of God: Ephesians

1. Our Past Plight (v. 1-3)

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric landscape. It features rolling hills and mountains in the foreground and middle ground, rendered in deep, muted colors like dark red, brown, and black. The sky above is a gradient of dark colors, transitioning from a deep purple or blue on the left to a dark, almost black, on the right, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

**We were dead in our
transgressions and sins.**

nekros

“...pertaining to being unable to respond to any impulse or to perform some function—‘unable, ineffective, dead, powerless.’”

Louw-Nida
Greek-English Lexicon

⁹The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Jeremiah 17:9

⁷the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

Romans 8:7-8

¹⁴The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:14

“Since this is our condition by nature, it is abundantly clear that we can no more give ourselves or help give ourselves spiritual life than a corpse can give itself biological life.



Anthony Hoekema
Saved by Grace

In the light of the biblical description of fallen human nature, regeneration must be understood, not as an act in which God and man work together, but as the work of God alone.”



Anthony Hoekema
Saved by Grace

hamartia (sin)

“to fail in some measure to attain some state or condition—‘to fail to attain, to not attain”

Louw-Nida
Greek-English Lexicon



sin is “any want [lack] of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God”

The Westminster Shorter Catechism
SC 14

The law of God is our ultimate moral standard, the transcript of God's own authority. To sin is to violate his law. Scripture teaches that we can violate God's law by our acts, by our attitudes, or just by being sinful persons, having a sinful nature.



John Frame
Salvation Belongs to the Lord

“We sin because we have a sinful character; that is, we are not sinners because we sin, but we sin because we are sinners.”

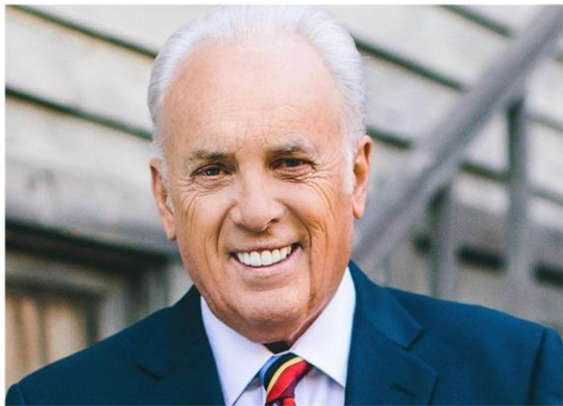


John Frame
Salvation Belongs to the Lord

¹⁶For everything in the world—the
cravings of sinful man, the lust of his
eyes and the boasting of what he has
and does—comes not from the Father
but from the world.

1 John 2:16

children of wrath (v. 3)— “the rebellious unregenerates who stand condemned before God”



John MacArthur

“Paul makes it very clear in Romans that it is their willful acts of transgression and disobedience that bring this wrath. Humans deserve God’s wrath because when they could know God, they willfully turned away (Rom 1:19–21). Moreover, they not only turn away but they hate God (Rom 1:30).”



Harold Hoehner,
Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary

³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

John 3:36

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...

Romans 1:18

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

Ephesians 5:6

1. Our Past Plight (v. 1-3)

2. God's Present Provision (v. 4-5)

is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ
—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God
with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order
to show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his
love, for it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—
a gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can

⁹ “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”

1 Corinthians 2:9

BUT GOD

⁶The Lord passed before [Moses] and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...”

Exodus 34:6-7

¹⁷... But you are a God ready to forgive,
gracious and merciful, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love...

Nehemiah 9:17

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

1 Peter 1:3

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

Psalm 103:11

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

¹ How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

1 John 3:1

OT pictures of regeneration:

- Deuteronomy 30.6
- Jeremiah 31.33
- Ezekiel 11.19; 36.26

³ In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”⁴ “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!”

John 3:3-7

⁵ Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.
⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

John 3:3-7

⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Titus 3:5

²³For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

1 Peter 1:23

⁷Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

1 John 5:1

¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

James 1:18

The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. It features silhouetted mountains and hills against a twilight sky that transitions from a deep blue at the top to a dark, almost black, at the bottom. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Grace

God's unmerited or undeserved favor in providing salvation for sinners through Christ's sacrificial death and enablement for the believer.



Harold Hoehner,
Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary

“The Order of Salvation”

- 1. Election (God’s choice of people to be saved)**
- 2. The gospel call (proclaiming the message of the gospel)**
- 3. Regeneration (being born again)**
- 4. Conversion (faith and repentance)**
- 5. Justification (right legal standing)**

6. Adoption (membership in God's family)
7. Sanctification (right conduct of life)
8. Perseverance (remaining a Christian)
9. Death (going to be with the Lord)
10. Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)

Wayne Grudem,
Systematic Theology