

THE
BOOK
OF

Ephesians

Week 2: THE GREATEST RESTORATION

The most important **Before/ After** story taking place right now is the story God is telling through our lives **personally & collectively**.

Ephesians 2:1-10

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil-the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. ⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For He raised us from the along with Christ Jesus. ⁷ So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of His grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all He has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. ⁸ God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

1. We are convinced **we're pretty good people** ... that we have never done anything "all that bad."
2. We are convinced **we are too far from God's grace** ... that we are beyond either His **ability** or His **willingness** to forgive us.

3. We have come to the place of humbly recognizing our need for God to forgive us- We realize we are the cause of the separation that has taken place between us and Him- so we have asked Him to forgive us of everything we've ever done wrong. Now we are experiencing a whole new **category of life** we could only have dreamed of before.

Do not allow the enemy to **convince** you that you are beyond God's **desire or ability** to **forgive you** and make you into the person He created you to be!

Notes:

How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new life in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new life from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text "FAITH" to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from New Living Translation [NLT].
Reverend Chris Conrad, Interim Senior Pastor, February 6, 2022
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