

“Remembering the Depths in Order to Soar to the Heights!”

Series: Learning to Live “in Christ” - Ephesians

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The Ephesians (we) have been invited to join in God’s grand story!

- Though we have come into the story more recently, we are legitimate because we are “in Christ”.
- We joined His Story when we heard and believed the Gospel and were also marked with God’s seal, the Holy Spirit!
- God’s great mystery has been revealed: to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.
- Our task now is to adjust to this new reality by cooperating and pursuing our place in His Story.
- Paul asks God for resources: Wisdom & Revelation, Hope in the Resurrection & Incomparable power!

Chapter 2 begins with **Paul reminding the Ephesians and Us** of what our **Journey to God** looks like.

- **Every Christ-follower has a _____!**

“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 and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.”

Ephesians 2:1-3

Paul is not just talking about our participating in a sinful thing here or there. His meaning is much deeper and broader!

“So where do you come into it all? Well, you were dead because of your offences and sins! ² That was the road you used to travel, keeping in step with this world’s ‘present age’; in step, too, with the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is, even now, at work among people whose whole lives consist of disobeying God.

³ Actually, that’s how all of us used to behave, conditioned by physical desires. We used to do what our flesh and our minds were urging us to do. What was the result? We too were subject to wrath in our natural state, just like everyone else.”

- **Every Christ-follower has experienced _____!**

“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.” Ephesians 2:4-9

Grace: Why and how we heard the Gospel in the first place

Grace: Extended by God, while we were in our previous state, when we were a mess!

Grace, by Faith: God says Faith is the proper way to activate Grace

- **Every Christ-follower is expected to become what God _____ them to be.**

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10

“This is the explanation: God has made us what we are. God has created us in King Jesus for the good works that he prepared, ahead of time, as the road we must travel.” Ephesians 2:10 (NTE)

Conclusion: Do you know where you are in God’s Story?

- Are you still in the pit of death? God is inviting you to entirely different existence!
- Have you activated God’s free gift of Grace but hardly feel like you are soaring? Stay tuned!!!

All Scriptures are from the New International Version unless noted.

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