

The mess: You are a sinner

Ephesians 2:1–3 NIV ¹ 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.

Paul's diagnosis:

- We have a corrupted nature.
- We live in a corrupted world.
- We have a corrupted ruler.

The motivation: God loves you

Ephesians 2:4–7 NIV 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.

God:

- “Has a great *love* for us” v4.
- “Is rich in *mercy*” v4.
- will show “the incomparable riches of his *grace*” v7.
- will display “his *kindness* to us in Christ” v7.

“The demonstration of his character was not something that happened as a side effect of his gracious saving work, but was the very purpose for which he did this work. He rescued those who are in Christ from the domination of the world, the devil and the flesh, so that he might demonstrate forever the overwhelmingly gracious nature of his character.” Thielman, BECNT, 140.

The method: Jesus saves by grace

Ephesians 1:20–21 NIV ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 2:5–6 NIV 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,

Homework: find all the instances of “heavenly realms” in Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:8–10 NIV 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. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone: [John 3:16](#), [Romans 4:4-5](#), [Galatians 2:15-16](#), [2 Timothy 1:9](#), [Titus 3:4-7](#), etc.

Good News!

- You can be saved from self, society, and Satan.
- You can experience God’s passionate love.
- Christ victory can be your victory.

CTA: Receive the gift of salvation through faith.