

The General Electric Power Company Series

Galatians | **Ephesians** | Philipians | Colossians

Lesson #8 – Ephesians 2

Main Idea

In our previous lesson we discussed the theological comprehensiveness of Ephesians, including the wide range of topics that are covered in Paul's letter sent to the church at Ephesus. In this lesson we address the very foundational elements of salvation – **grace** and **faith**. Since the Early Church there has been great debate regarding the roles completed by God in our salvation versus what roles we play. In studying epistles like Romans and Ephesians we are able to begin to understand why and how we are justified. The fundamental question is this: *Does our salvation (justification) come as a result of our response to God's work, or do we generate a response from God based upon actions on our part?* While there are some who might say this is a matter of semantics, it is not. What we understand about how we are saved has fundamental ramifications on our view of God and how we live our lives. Ephesians 6, verses 6, 8-9, and 10 help put the pieces of this puzzle together for us.

- We are saved by God's grace, nothing more and nothing less (verse 8).
- The evidence of our salvation is our response through faith (verse 9).
- We were created individually to do God's work, which has been prepared in advance for us (verse 10).

Outline for Ephesians

- Ephesians 1:1-2 – Introduction
- Ephesians 1:3-23 – Our spiritual possessions in Christ
- Ephesians 2:1-22 – Our spiritual position in Christ
- Ephesians 4:1-16 – A call to walk in unity
- Ephesians 4:17 - 5:21 – A call to walk in purity
- Ephesians 5:22 -6:9 – A call to walk in harmony
- Ephesians 6:10-20 – A call to walk in victory

Questions for Consideration

1. Read verses 1 through 3. Why would Paul say we are dead in our transgressions? What does it mean, specifically in relation to salvation?
2. If God has made us (Believers) alive (cf. verses 4-6), what does it mean for those who have not experienced God's grace? In other words, in what state do they exist?
3. Read very carefully word by word verses 8 and 9. Look on the back of this page and note the bold **RED** highlighted words that include: grace, saved, faith, gift, works, boast. According to these verses, how is one saved? Does it have anything to do with what we do?
4. According to verse 10, why were we saved? What does this mean to you?
5. Read verses 19 through 22. According to these verses, what work is currently being conducted by God? How important is this work and what role to we play?

Homework: Read Ephesians 3. What mystery is Paul discussing (verse 9) and how does it relate to us?



Ephesians 2 (New International Version, 1984)

Made Alive in Christ

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 sinful nature^[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects 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 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 workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

One in Christ

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (that done in the body by the hands of men)— ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Footnotes:

- a. [Ephesians 2:3](#) *Or our flesh*

