

- 1) Read Ephesians 1:3 together and answer the following questions:
 - a) How richly has God blessed you?
 - b) What does Paul call these blessings?
 - c) What do people generally think of when talking about blessings?
 - d) Are any temporal or physical blessings listed in Ephesians 1?
 - e) What is the significance of that?
 - f) What does it mean to be blessed “in the heavenly places”?
 - g) What does it mean to be blessed “in Christ”?
- 2) What special blessing is mentioned in verses 13 and 14?
- 3) What does Paul call the Holy Spirit?
- 4) Why did Paul emphasize that particular function of the Holy Spirit?
- 5) Considering Ephesians 1, is there any sin that a Christian cannot overcome?
- 6) As a child of God, how much spiritual power is available to you (v. 19, 20)?
- 7) Which sins or evil powers have authority in your life (v. 21-23)?
- 8) Why then do some Christians still live in subjection to certain sins?

Monday (v. 1) – “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins...” The “and” in verse 1 is taking us back to chapter 1 where Paul was laying out the many blessings of God. The word translated “and” is the Greek *kai*; it is very emphatic and could be translated “even.” First Paul lays out a long list of the blessings God has bestowed upon you and then he says (paraphrased), “He even made you alive!” Several things we need to remember for this week: 1) the chapter and verse divisions were not inspired by God (i.e., those were added much later to help us), 2) so then chapter 2 is a continuation of chapter 1. 3) Paul is making a point (in other words, God wants us to learn something). Chapter 1 was about God’s sovereignty (predestination) and God’s generosity (amazing blessings); Paul wants us to see that all of life (not just salvation) is a gift of God’s grace. As we prepare to study Ephesians 2, ask yourself this question: What does God want me to learn about His grace?

Tuesday (v. 1-3) – Sometimes in Christian life it becomes easy to forget where you came from, it is easy to slip into sinful or judgmental thought patterns; we can become frustrated or angry with the sinful lives of those around us (and there is nothing wrong with hating sin), or we can get depressed by the general bent of our country. But maybe we are forgetting one of the elementary truths of Scripture: “and such were some of you” (1 Cor. 6:11). Remember God wants you to learn something. What should be your attitude when dealing with “sinners”?

Wednesday (v. 4, 5) – “But God,” two of the most awesome and important words in the Bible. *Your* situation was hopeless; there was nothing *you* could do! You were dead, you were living for yourself, you were ruled by the devil, you were deceived, totally displeasing to God in every way; but God! But God who is rich in mercy, grace and love came and freely gave to you everything you would ever need, everything (and more) than you could ever want. *But God!* Understanding who you were and the amazing depths of God’s grace, what should be your attitude?

Thursday (v. 6, 7) – What does it mean to “sit in the heavenly places”? Notice first that we have been seated “together” (he repeats this). Notice also that we sit in the heavenly places “in Christ.” We will find the phrase “in Christ” repeated throughout the Book of Ephesians. What is the significance of the phrase “in Christ” as it relates to the grace of God? Why has God so richly blessed us (v. 7)?

Friday (v. 8, 9) – These are two of the most quoted evangelism verses in the Bible. These are wonderful verses that so clearly tell of true salvation “not of works” but “by grace,” “a gift of God.” Even the faith to believe is from God! These are wonderful verses to share with unbelievers, especially those who think they are “good enough” (works-based religion); however, who are these verses really addressed to? Look again at Ephesians 2:1. Does verse 8 say, “By grace you can be saved”? No! The verbs are in past tense, “you *have been* saved.” This verse is to you! Knowing that, what should be your attitude (v. 7)?

Saturday (v. 8-10) – Again, the chapter and verse divisions were not inspired; verses 8-10 go together. Understanding salvation and how it is all a work of God’s grace should make you humble, but it should also accomplish something else in your life; what is that (v. 10)? Ephesians contains some wonderful and practical teaching about life in the church, we all have a function and God wants us all to contribute to His work in this world. Are you serving in the body? What “good works” has God prepared for you that you are not walking in? Spend some time alone with God today and examine your life. What kind of things are you living for? Are those the kind of things that God has prepared beforehand for you to “walk in” (live for)? Understanding the awesome depths of God’s grace, and that He has a plan for your life, what should be your attitude?