

Weekly Study Guide

6/9/24 - Grace Perspective

Read [Ephesians 2:1-10](#)

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. 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 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.

Questions:

1. What stands out to you in the verses above? Are there any common themes? What is being contrasted?
2. What is grace? What does it mean to you? How does grace impact your salvation and relationship with God? Why is salvation a gift and not the result of works? What is the place of works in our life?
3. In what ways does grace affect how you see your past, your present, and your future?
4. Share one takeaway from all of this. How can you apply this to your life? Is there anything you need to do in light of this?

References: [Luke 24:30-31](#); [Ephesians 2:1-10](#); [Titus 2:11-14](#); [1 Peter 5:5](#); [Romans 5:15-17](#); [Romans 6:14-15](#); [Matthew 5:16](#)

For later: Take time to prayerfully examine your perspective. How do you view your life and relationship with Christ? Are you works and law oriented or grace oriented? What can you do to ensure that you are seeing things through a grace perspective? Read through the entire chapters of Romans 5 and 6 several times over the course of the next week.

Key:

1. Ephesians 2:1-10 contrast grace and works, wrath versus grace, mercy, love and kindness
2. Grace: God's riches at Christ's expense; charisma, a gift
3. Salvation must be received. It is not earned. If we are saved by works that we would receive credit. We cannot save ourselves. We cannot boast in our good works. Through grace God receives all the glory.
4. We were created for good works. Our lives shine the light of Christ and bring glory to God.