

**Grace Bible Church**  
**Adult Elective Winter 2017**  
**Topic: Ephesians**

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**Textbook Recommended: Living Insights - Ephesians by Chuck Swindoll**

**Ephesians Chapter 2:1-10**

- The second chapter of Ephesians reminds us of how we have been rescued from the “lowest of lows” and raised to the “highest of heights” with Christ.
- 2:1-3
  - Prior to God’s grace and mercy:
    - We were dead and destined for hell, slaves to sin
    - In and of our selves, we had no ability to free ourselves from sin’s grasp and the punishment we deserved
    - Our lifestyle was (Swindoll p. 185):
      - Lusts of the flesh (emotional depravity)
        - Gk. *epithymia* (lust) – “deep desire” cf. Mk 4:19; 1 Thess. 2:17
      - Desires of the flesh (physical depravity)
        - Gk. *thelema* (will) – decisions based on physical, not spiritual priorities
      - Desires of the mind (rational depravity)
        - Twisted thinking (irrational beliefs and behaviors)
    - Children of wrath: Gk. *physis* – our natures are corrupt, ergo there are no “good people”
    - All of us are under God’s wrath given our sinful natures and our sinful choices.
  - 2:4-7
    - What has God done for us, and why has He done it?
      - By Christ’s life, death, burial, and resurrection, we (believers baptized by the Holy Spirit) can totally share in Christ’s victory over death and exaltation into heaven (Christ’s victory is reckoned to the believer).
      - We are no longer dead, destined for hell, or slaves to sin. We are alive again (“born again”)! The Holy Spirit gives us the power to overcome sin and to fully and obediently serve God. Cf. Phil. 2:12-13
      - Mercy: not getting what we deserve (death)
      - Grace: getting what we do not deserve (life)
  - 2:8-9
    - How can we receive salvation?
      - Grace is the basis.
        - The objective basis for salvation.

- Faith is the subjective means by which we receive this grace.
  - Faith is the trust and dependence we give to God given the specific content (the truth of God, who He is, what He has done, and our desire to fully obey Him).
  - The gospel message (earliest recorded instance): 1 Cor. 15:1-5
  - Only faith and repentance given Christ's amazing gift to us allows us to be right before God the Father. God and God alone is the sole author of salvation. I had no part of it (or in it) except my receiving what He had given me.
  - In Ephesians 2:8-9, the "that" refers to the salvation package, and not to faith or grace.
- 2:10
  - What difference does salvation make in my life?
    - God desires us to be active for Him.
    - We are to be sanctified, but also to be active in doing good deeds/works.
    - These good deeds/works are only possible because of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.