



EPHESIANS

WHO WE ARE + HOW WE WALK



DOXA DEO

WEEK 2

EPHESIANS DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

What happens when the good news of salvation becomes so good to someone that not only does their understanding of their identity shift, but their entire life starts changing?

Ephesians asks the question, what happens when my private faith starts speaking up in public?
What will my relationships look like?
What will my vocation look like?

This wonderful letter was not written to address a specific heresy or problem in the church.

It was written as a grand explanation of the greatness of God's plan for salvation for His people
- and the implications thereof
in the lives of those who follow Christ.

The gospel will create a family on mission.



LET'S LOOK AT WHO THIS FAMILY IS + HOW THEY WALK.

HOW DO I USE THIS BOOKLET?

You are about to embark on a journey of discovery.
Discovering the incredible wealth and vastness
of God's salvation plan for you and that it is meant to
empower you in the here and now for a life of godliness.



Step 1

Get a cup of coffee and a quiet spot where you can spend some
time with the Creator of the universe.

The Holy Spirit inspired scripture and reveals scripture to us.
Ask God to come and reveal these scriptures to you.



Step 2

Now take some time to read the portion of scripture for the day.
Read it more than once and consider reading it in different
translations to get a better understanding of what's being said.



Step 3

Take some time to reflect on the day's reading by answering the
reflection questions for the day's devotion.



Step 4

Spend some time in prayer responding to what
God revealed to you in today's reading.

**“Search the inspired book and desire
to know everything it teaches”**

- CHARLES SPURGEON

CHAPTER 1 - 3

WHO WE ARE

This book can be divided into two halves.

The 1st half (chapter 1 – 3) deals with the greatness of salvation and God's plan to put everything under the lordship of Jesus.

The 1st half is all about my relationship to God through the work of Jesus.

The 1st half answers the question of my identity & my relation to God through the work of His Son Jesus.

It also answers the question of where my new identity fits into God's kingdom in relation to His people, the church.

Let's dive into Ephesians.

WEEK 2 | CHAPTER 2

Here Paul begins explaining in more detail why there is so much reason for the Christian to celebrate. The cause for celebration begins with this sobering truth:

The Christian was not just a little bit sick, or a little bit needy. He was not a person who was basically all right but needed a bit of help. His problem was as severe as the problem of Jesus when He was dead and buried and sealed in a tomb. The Christian was also – at one time – dead and buried and sealed in a tomb. It takes resurrection-power for anyone to come to salvation at all.

The sobering truth and then the wonderful good news: We were entirely dead – and then God stepped into our lives! We are united to Him. He is alive. He is raised. He is ascended. We are made alive. A seed of new life is put into us, waking us up to God and giving us a love towards Him. We are raised. We are ascended. Spiritually we are united with Christ in heaven!

God has a purpose in all of this: He wants to display the exceeding riches of His grace for ever and ever.

DAY 1: Ephesians 2: 1 – 7

" D e a d , b u t m a d e A l i v e "

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil, the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

4 But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

6 For He raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

7 So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of His grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all He has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

- **Before Christ, we were all dead in our sin.**
- **Upon meeting Christ, we are made alive.**

Take a moment and consider who you were before you met Christ.

- 1) Write down a few "I was" statements about who you were before you met Christ. Then write down a few "I am now" statements about how He has changed you.

I was _____

I was _____

I was _____

I am now _____

I am now _____

I am now _____

- 2) Read verse 4 again.
Why did God make salvation at all possible for us?

DAY 2: Ephesians 2: 8 – 10

"How can a dead man be made alive?"

8 God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

- 1) What is the one and only requirement for salvation according to this scripture?
- 2) How does it make you feel knowing you can do nothing "good" to earn your salvation?

Take a moment and reflect on the fact that this passage states that you are God's masterpiece.

Write down a prayer.

DAY 3: Ephesians 2: 11 – 12

"What do you mean I'm a Gentile?"

11 Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. **12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them.**

You lived in this world without God and without hope.

God's plan is to bring His world back together again in unity by putting it under Christ! He begins with His people. He creates united people in this world, His bride, the body of Christ.

Because salvation rests upon Christ's merit only - that means no one is excluded. We, like the Gentiles, were cut off. But now we, like the Gentiles, have been included in God's plan. God desires unity. We are no longer excluded from the citizenship of God's people. We have been grafted into God's family.

1) How do you feel about the fact that God did not give you a new identity in order to be a solo Christian? He desires for you to be connected and united with all of His people.

Pray for this unity that God desires over your church and other churches in your city.

DAY 4: Ephesians 2: 13 – 18

"One plus one equals one"

13 But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to Him through the blood of Christ.

14 For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in His own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

15 He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. **He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new people from the two groups.**

16 Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of His death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

17 He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from Him, and peace to the Jews who were near. 18 **Now all of us can come to the Father** through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

- 1) Who are you still trusting for to come to salvation and be included?

Write down their name and spend a few minutes in prayer for them.

Paul is stating that all people groups (Jews and Gentiles) can be united together because of the work of Jesus.

Everyone has equal access to God because of Jesus. Think about someone you struggle to get along with, that one person that just gets on your nerves a lot.

- 2) How do you feel about the fact that that person is also invited and can be included in God's family?

Write down their name too and spend a few minutes in prayer for them.

DAY 5: Ephesians 2: 19 – 22

"A City, a Family, a Building"

19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. **You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. 20 Together, we are His house,** built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets.

And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself.

21 We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. 22 Through Him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by His Spirit.

Paul likens the church to three pictures in this passage. A city, a family and a building.

1) A City

You can't choose your neighbour in a city.

A city is full of different people from different backgrounds.

In God's kingdom everyone is included.

Salvation means everyone can be a citizen of heaven.

There is no discrimination in God's kingdom.

Take a moment and pray for those people around you that are completely different from you.

Think of your workplace, your neighbourhood etc.

2) A Family

This picture is a deeper one. One is closer to one's family than to fellow-citizens in a city-state. God is our Father; Jesus is our elder brother. Christians are brothers and sisters to each other.

We choose our friends, but brothers and sisters are people that are given to us without us choosing them.

Christians are our brothers and sisters; it is a God-given fact. Take a moment and pray for your brothers and sisters in church. Think especially of those who are different from you.

3) A Building

This is a yet deeper illustration, more profound than the previous two. For relationships in a city-state may not be close. Relationships in a family are closer, but in a building bricks and stones are built into each other; the one cannot do without the other – and the cornerstone is Christ.

Take a moment and pray that your church would be built upon the cornerstone Jesus and that each follower, from this new identity, would be built into it as a citizen of God's people.