

3. How should I respond to what God has done for me through Jesus, the best Christmas gift?

A. Be filled with gratitude and humility.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

B. Go out of your way to serve and love people.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. At Christmas, how does learning the truth of Ephesians 2:1-10 help you see Jesus as the best Christmas gift you ever received?
2. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. These verses tell us that before Jesus came, we were dead to God, locked into a sinful lifestyle, under the control of the devil, and in bondage to our sinful nature (See also 1 John 5:19; Titus 3:3; Romans 3:10-18). Looking back on your life before Christ, how did spiritual death, the world, Satan, and your flesh control your life? How do these verses explain the thinking and actions of people around us that live apart from Christ?
3. Knowing that sin produces spiritual—not just physical—death, how does that help you better understand what happened in Genesis 2:7?
4. Read Ephesians 2:4-7. What blessings do these verses tell us we received from God that we don't deserve? How do these verses change the way you feel about what God has done for you? How do they change the way you feel about yourself (See also Romans 5:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Titus 3:3-6)?
5. How does knowing that God deserves 100% of the credit for saving us change the way we feel about our relationship with Him and the security we have in that relationship (See also Romans 9:16; 1 John 4:10)?
6. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Even though we are not saved by good works, why is it important that Christians are a people overflowing with good works (See also 2 Corinthians 9:8; Matthew 5:16; Colossians 1:10)?



Ephesians 2:1-10 – The Best Christmas Gift

December 9, 2018

1. Before Jesus, we were spiritually dead and deserving God's wrath in the Lake of Fire.

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked,... Ephesians 2:1–2 (ESV)

Trespasses — Things we choose to do wrong (like trespassing), also called sins of commission.

Sins — Things we fail to do right, such as falling short of a goal or missing the bullseye on a target. These are called sins of omission.

There is no such thing as a spiritual seeker.

...no one understands; no one seeks for God. Romans 3:11 (ESV)

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him... John 6:44 (ESV)

A. We were following the world's value system.

... in which you once walked, following the course of this world,...

B. We were following the guidance of Satan.

...following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience...

And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Luke 10:18 (ESV)

C. We were following our fleshly desires.

...among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind,...

D. We were fully deserving of God's wrath.

...we were by nature children of wrath like the rest of mankind...

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. Romans 7:18 (ESV)

... as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." Romans 3:10–12 (ESV)

2. Through Jesus, we are spiritually alive and seated with Christ.

A. God brought us to life through Jesus because of his mercy and love.

...But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...

And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. Acts 13:48 (ESV)

B. The only reason we are saved is God's grace, not our goodness.

...by grace you have been saved...

C. In heaven, we are so blessed that we sit with Jesus.

...and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,...

D. In eternity, the blessings we have through Jesus keep getting better.

...so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus...

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11 (ESV)