

Worship Guide for March 8, 2020

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Sermon Notes

westwoodguest

You Were Dead, But God.... Ephesians 2: 1-7 (pew Bible pg. 976)

The first chapter of Ephesians took us back, back before the foundation of the world, to show us how God planned, called, and created for himself a new kind of people in Christ. This new people make up the body of Christ, with him as their head. In the second chapter of Ephesians, we are told how God accomplished this.

Ephesians 1 ends with the prayer that we might know God's power, the power that was seen when God raised Christ from the dead and exalted him with universal authority over all. In one sense, Ephesians 2 is a continuation of that prayer; that we might see that same power at work in us as God takes people who are spiritually dead, enslaved to sin and condemned under God's wrath, and gives them life, freedom, and raises them up with Christ in the "heavenly places". Basically, Paul is saying, 'Jesus Christ was physically dead, but God raised and exalted him. And you were spiritually dead, but God raised and exalted him. And you were spiritually dead, but God raised and exalted him.

John Stott says it well: "Paul first plumbs the depths of pessimism about man, and then rises to the heights of optimism about God. It is this combination of pessimism and optimism, of despair and faith, which constitutes the refreshing realism of the Bible. For what Paul does in this passage is to paint a vivid contrast between what man is by nature and what he can become by grace." (Stott, 69) In graphic detail, Paul describes what is missing in us, and what is provided by God.

Apart from Christ all people are spiritually dead – as unresponsive as a corpse (Eph 2: 1)

Apart from Christ all people are enslaved to $\sin -$ following the world, the devil and our sinful nature. (Eph 2: 2)

Apart from Christ all people by nature are under God's wrath – and stand as condemned under that wrath. (Eph 2: 3)

> But God, being rich in mercy and love– makes us alive together with Christ. (Eph 2: 5)

But God, being rich in mercy and loveraises us up with Christ. (Eph 2: 6)

But God, wanting to display his immeasurable grace and kindness – fully restores us with the glory of Christ. (Eph 2: 6-7)



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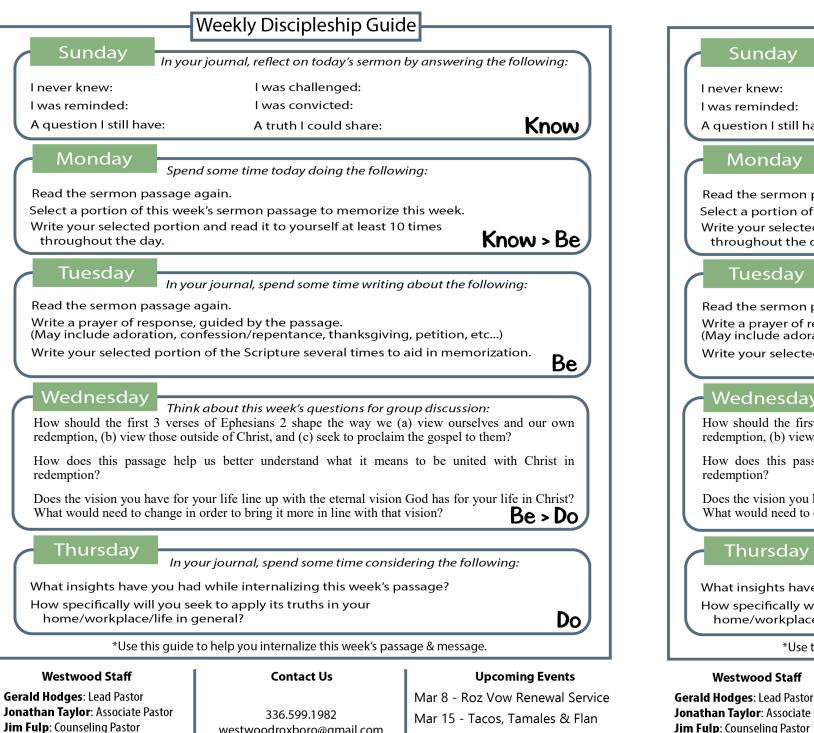
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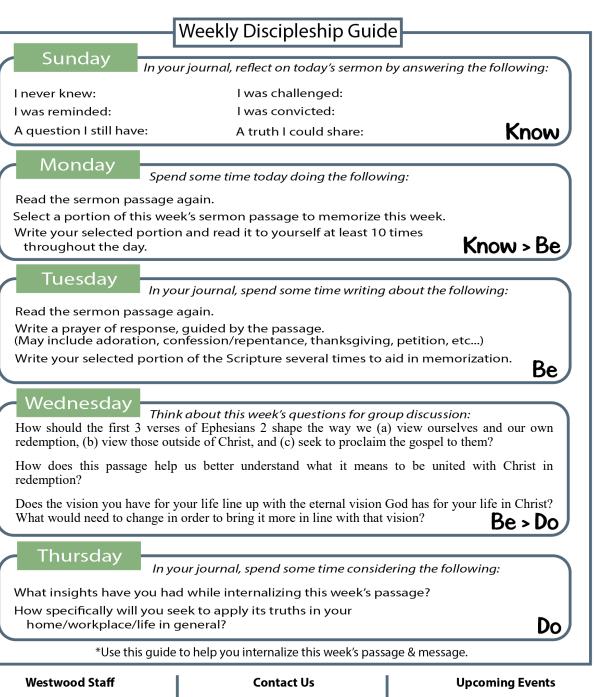
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students

Katie Austin: Children's Ministry

& Discipleship

Coordinator

Mar 18 - Church Conference Mar 20-21 - Mom 2 Mom Sale April 4 - One Day with God



Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor Jason Engle: Pastor of Students & Discipleship Katie Austin: Children's Ministry

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Mar 8 - Roz Vow Renewal Service Mar 15 - Tacos, Tamales & Flan Mar 18 - Church Conference Mar 20-21 - Mom 2 Mom Sale April 4 - One Day with God