

### Sermon Notes

#### **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 you with Christ.'

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 love–  
raises 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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Weekly Discipleship Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew: I was challenged:  
I was reminded: I was convicted:  
A question I still have: A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.  
Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.  
Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.  
Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.  
(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)  
Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

How should the first 3 verses of Ephesians 2 shape the way we (a) view ourselves and our own redemption, (b) view those outside of Christ, and (c) seek to proclaim the gospel to them?  
  
How does this passage help us better understand what it means to be united with Christ in redemption?  
  
Does the vision you have for your life line up with the eternal vision God has for your life in Christ?  
What would need to change in order to bring it more in line with that vision?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?  
How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

\*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor  
**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor  
**Jim Fulp:** Counseling Pastor  
**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students & Discipleship  
**Katie Austin:** Children's Ministry Coordinator

Contact Us

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Upcoming Events

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

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