

Experiencing Life on a New Level

Ephesians 2

What We Were:

Ephesians 2:1-3 Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins. ²You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature. We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God's anger just like everyone else.

What God Did:

Ephesians 2:4-6 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much, ⁵that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's special favor that you have been saved!) ⁶For he raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with him in the heavenly realms—all because we are one with Christ Jesus.

Why God Did It:

Ephesians 2:7 And so God can always point to us as examples of the incredible wealth of his favor and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us through Christ Jesus.

How God Did It:

Ephesians 2:8-13 God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹³But now you belong to Christ Jesus. Though you once were far away from God, now you have been brought near to him because of the blood of Christ.

What We Are Now:

- Products of Grace

¹**Ephesians 2:14** For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Video — Are you “saving” starfish?

- People of God

Ephesians 2:19b-20...You are members of God’s family. ²⁰We are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

- We Are...

...declared “not guilty” of sin. **Romans 3:24**

...holy, blameless. **Ephesians 1:4**

...adopted as God’s children. **Ephesians 1:5, 6**

...forgiven. **Ephesians 1:7**

...God’s work of art. **Ephesians 2:10**

...near to God. **Ephesians 2:13**

...set free from our sinful nature. **Colossians 2:11**

...a new creation. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

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