

# EPHESIANS

ALIVE IN CHRIST

SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH  
FAITH ALONE

Ephesians 2:8–18

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## RELATED SCRIPTURES

## STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 06.29.25

Deuteronomy 7:9–16 | Romans 11:11–36 | Galatians 3:23–29

## SUMMARY

The Christian is unable to take credit for their salvation; Paul establishes that Jesus “made us alive together with Christ (v. 5). Since he *made us alive*, anything good that comes after that—including our faith—is all a byproduct of his regeneration of our souls. Though our salvation is the Lord’s doing by his grace alone, the vehicle in which he delivers us comes by way of faith—the belief and trust that Jesus’ work alone on your behalf is effectual unto salvation. The fact that we can and do believe all flows from *his* saving initiative; it’s all his design. Just as God first created us through his workmanship, so our re-creation is something accomplished by God’s workmanship as well; it is not our own. Paul then reveals *why* the Father has recreated us; the goal of our justification and redemption is *righteousness*—he recreated us for “good works.” If we are of the workmanship of Christ, if he has recreated us, if the Holy Spirit is dwelling within us—we *will* manifest the change that God has wrought in our souls by doing the good works that “God prepared beforehand” (v. 10). Paul then reminds his Gentile audience that formerly, the people of God were marked by the sign of circumcision indicating, among other things, that he separated them from the world. God’s people were set apart and consecrated to the special relationship of being in the family of God, and those who weren’t were “uncircumcised,” or *not* set apart and without hope. But now those “who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ” (v. 13). Despite the past status of the Gentiles, Christ has made the perfect sacrifice, entered the heavenly sanctuary, and now allows those of us who were strangers to the covenant of grace to be grafted into the kingdom of God. The wall that once separated both the Jew and Gentile from God has been broken down (v. 14). Jesus Christ broke down this wall by fulfilling all that the law required on behalf of the whole world—the Jew *and* the Gentile (v. 15) and destroying all hostility, not just between the Jew and Gentile, but between God and man (vv. 16–18). Because of Jesus alone, we are at peace with God!

## GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Ephesians 2:8–18.

How can faith be something that belongs to the believer, yet is not something for which the believer can take credit? How does *our* faith work with *his* saving grace?

What does it mean to be at peace with God? How were you at odds with God before he saved you, and what is different now that you are saved?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.