

LESSON 2
ALIVE!
EPHESIANS 1:15—2:10



1 What is the most unique gift you've ever received?

2 How do you determine what kind of gift to give to someone?



Read Ephesians 1:15—2:10, the chart “Our Lives before and after Christ,” and the following notes:

☐ 1:16, 17 ☐ 1:20–22 ☐ 1:22, 23 ☐ 2:3 ☐ 2:4, 5 ☐ 2:8, 9 ☐ 2:8–10

3 What do we inherit through Christ (1:18)?

4 What does it mean to be dead and “doomed forever” because of your sins (2:1)?

5 What does it mean to have been given life when Christ was raised from the dead (2:5)?

6 What does it mean to be saved by God's "special favor when you believed" (2:8)?

7 Rewrite Ephesians 2:8, 9 in your own words.

8 Given its awful consequences, why don't people take sin more seriously?



Gifts, by definition, are free. They are given, not earned, and they should be accepted with gratitude. But sometimes gifts make us feel awkward or embarrassed because of the giver or the nature of the gift. We'd much rather earn what we are given or pay our own way. Salvation is a gift from God. Many people find that truth unsettling—it feels better to think that somehow we deserve what we get. But the fact is that while we were dead in our sins, God chose us—we did not choose him (1:11). He saved us by his grace. And even our faith to believe is a gift from God (2:8). Salvation and faith could only be gifts from God—we could never do enough to earn them. And without them, we'd be lost forever. Thank God for his grace and his gifts!

9 How do self-reliance and individualism make it difficult for us to accept God's free gift of salvation?



10 Why do people today seldom talk about sin?

11 Review the chart "Our Lives before and after Christ" and identify some concrete differences faith in Christ has made in your life. What were you like before you became a Christian?

12 How should people respond to the fact that salvation is by grace alone?

13 What difference should this truth make in individuals' lives?

14 What can you do to demonstrate your gratitude to God for his gift of eternal life?



15 Out of gratitude for what Christ has done for you, how can you serve him this week? Think of something that you have never done before (take a walk in the woods to pray, share your faith with a close friend, help with worship at your church) that can creatively express your thankfulness.

A What does it mean that we were “born with an evil nature” (2:3)? What evidence of sin can you see in the world? in your life?

B What is Satan like, and how does he influence us? In what ways are Christians affected by Satan? What can we do to oppose the devil? How can we withstand his attacks?

C Christ is the head of the church, his body. What does this image suggest to you concerning the nature and function of the church? What part are you in the body of Christ?

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