

# Power on Display

## Wk 2 (10/19) - Ephesians 2:1-10

The opening chapter of Ephesians explodes with a fireworks display celebrating God's work in Christ, to the praise of his glory. It is the triumphant song of praise trumpeted by all creation for God's wondrous deeds. Through Christ, God brought salvation to all ethnic groups demonstrating his lavish grace. God has fulfilled his promise in Jeremiah 31:31f to create a new covenant and a new chosen people who know God and his will. A people chosen to be holy, set aside for a purpose, to live as the body of Christ that demonstrates resurrection power and reveals God to the world. The surprise at the end of chapter one is that God's salvation efforts are focused in and through the church, not individuals.

In Chapter 2, the celebration continues but rather than a celebration song, chapter two sounds more like a persuasive commercial. With the fireworks thundering God's praises in the background, the author reminds the readers of just how bad things used to be and how wonderful they are now. It is a dose of perspective using stark contrasts of before and after.

### Exploring the Text

In this section, we notice that our lives have been resurrected from the death of sin, just as Christ was resurrected from death for our sin. The power of God over death is experienced in our lives as power over sin. Like chapter 1, which ends with a statement of purpose for the church, this section also ends with a statement of purpose. In chapter 1, the focus and purpose of God's power exerted in Christ was "for the church" which bears the image and glory of God. In chapter 2, after painting the high contrast image of before and after, we see that the purpose of God's salvation is for the church to "do good works."

### Discussion

- Make a list of all the negative aspects associated with "before" and all the positive aspects associated with "after" finding life in Christ.

Before	After

- What does the "As for you" opening phrase connect to? Explain why this connection is important for this section.
- According to this section, what motivated God to save us?
- According to this section, for what purpose did God save us?
- The words Love, Mercy, Grace, Kindness, Faith, and Gift all appear in this section. Which one appears most frequently? Why?
- Read Romans 2-3. What similarities do you see between Romans 2-3 compared to what Paul is saying in this section?