

## Bible Study

### Ephesians 2:1-10

Introduction: Wrong direction story. Describe a time when you chose the wrong direction, whether it was while driving, in a relationship or some other situation? Wrong directions with respect to our formation.

Ephesians 2:1-10

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10.
2. In verse 1, St. Paul links death to our trespasses and sins. The word trespass carries the imagery of a person trespassing a boundary into a forbidden field or wandering off the true path into the wrong way. The word sin has the imagery of an archer missing the mark or falling short. How do you understand the relationship between death and trespasses and sins? Read Romans 7:9-13 and Matthew 8:21-22. What do these verses add to our understanding?
3. In verses 2-3, St. Paul paints a picture of spiritual reality outside of Christ. Here are some of the ways he describes it.
  - a. Walked.
  - b. Course.
  - c. Prince of the power of the air.
  - d. All once lived.
  - e. Passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and mind. Why are passions of the flesh and desires of body and mind such an effective place for the devil to plot a course for us to walk contrary to God's will? James 1:14-15 and 1 John 2:16-17.
  - f. By nature children of wrath.

4. In verses 4-9, St. Paul gives us God's response to our status as dead sinners. According to St. Paul in verse 4, what is God's motive for saving us? Read Deuteronomy 7:6-9. Why do you think it's important that we see the same motivation in the Old Testament?
5. In these same verses (4-9), St. Paul tells us about some tremendous things that God has done for us. List as many as you can find and put them into your own words instead of the phrases used by St. Paul.
6. Pagans in Ephesus tried to remove guilt by maiming themselves, abstaining from food or sex, giving money, or sacrificing an animal. How do people in our day try to remove guilt other than through faith in God's grace in Christ?
7. Read verses 8-9. What do you think is the relationship between works and boasting and why would God want to exclude all boasting? Romans 3:21-28.
8. Notice in verse 10 how St. Paul talks about the good works being prepared beforehand that we should *walk* in them. Christians are at the center of God's new creation, and He has set a course in Christ Jesus for us to walk. Thus, our life in Christ is not a set of laws to fulfill but a restoration of the way things are supposed to be (we get a picture of this later on in chapters 4-6). What do you think is involved in waling God's course which He designed for us to follow in Christ Jesus? How will this course differ from the "course of this world" found in verse 2?