



WOODLAND HEIGHTS

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Identity: Who Do You Say I Am?

Part #3 – I Am Rescued: God’s Masterpiece in Progress

Small Group Discussion Guide on Ephesians 2:1-10

Woodland Heights Christian Church Core Value Connection

This sermon on Ephesians 2:1-10 aligns with the core value of **Biblical Authority** at Woodland Heights Christian Church. We believe that a Christian is a fully devoted follower of Christ who is called to live life by the standard of the Word of God. This standard defines your identity and leads you in life.

This message on Ephesians 2:1-10 reminds us that the Word shapes how we see God, ourselves, and our purpose in the world. The Bible teaches that your true identity is not defined by your past, your feelings, or the culture’s labels, but by what God declares over you in Christ. In this passage, God answers the identity question with a stunning reality: in Christ, you are rescued by grace and are God’s masterpiece in progress – claimed, changed, and called to walk in the good works He prepared long ago.

Section 1 – ENCOUNTER

Observing God’s Word

Imagine a person standing in the ruins of a collapsed building – dust in the air, concrete all around, no way out on their own – until a rescuer’s voice breaks through the rubble and lifts them from death’s shadow to life. That is the spiritual picture Paul paints in Ephesians 2:1-10: you were dead, trapped, drifting – but God stepped in with mercy, love, and grace to make you alive and calls you His masterpiece. Let’s slow down and let this rescue story sink deep into our hearts.

Let’s start our study by anchoring ourselves in Scripture. Read Ephesians 2:1-10 as a group, family, or an individual, letting God’s Word sink in.

Core Questions

- What words or phrases does Paul use to describe life before Christ in verses 1-3? What emotions do those words stir in you as you read them?
- List the action words God performs in verses 4-7 (for example: “made us alive,” “raised us up,” “seated us”). What do these words tell you about who is doing the rescuing?
- In verse 10, Paul calls us God’s “workmanship” or “masterpiece.” When you hear that word, what image comes to mind – a painting, a sculpture, a building, a restored treasure? Why?

Section 2 – EXPLORE

Understanding the Passage and Sermon

As we explore Ephesians 2:1-10, we see three marks of a masterpiece in progress: your past condition, your new position, and your new purpose. Use the questions below to connect biblical truth to real life and to see how deeply God has rescued you.

Truth #1 – Your Past Condition: Spiritually Dead, But the Savior Stepped In (Eph. 2:1-3)

Before Christ, Paul doesn't say we were just "struggling" or "a little off" – he says we were dead in trespasses and sins, drifting with the world's current, and by nature children of wrath. This is not to shame us but to magnify the mercy of God who reaches into our ruin and rescues us.

- Why is it important to see ourselves as spiritually dead (not just spiritually "sick") apart from Christ? How does this deepen your appreciation for God's mercy?
- Verse 2 describes our old walk as "following the course of this world" and the influence of a real spiritual enemy. Where do you see cultural currents today normalizing rebellion against God and His Word? How have you felt those currents tug at your own heart?

Spiritual Truth from the sermon: "You will never grasp how rescued you are until you remember how lost you were."

- How has remembering your past condition helped you grow in humility and worship?

Truth #2 – Your New Position: Rescued by Christ and Made Alive to Live Forever (Eph. 2:4-7)

The two words "But God" draw a bright line between who you were and who you are now in Christ. God, being rich in mercy and great in love, made you alive, raised you up, and seated you with Christ—even when you were still dead in sin.

- According to verse 4, what motivated God to rescue you—your performance, or His mercy and great love? How does this truth steady you on days when you feel like a failure?
- Verses 5-6 say God "made us alive," "raised us up," and "seated us...in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Which of these realities is hardest for you to believe personally, and why?
- Verse 7 says God rescued you "so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." How does it feel to know that your life will forever be a display of His grace?

Truth #3 – Your New Purpose: God's Masterpiece Under Construction (Eph. 2:8-10)

Paul anchors our salvation in grace alone: "For by grace you have been saved through faith...not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Then he lifts our eyes to see that we are God's workmanship—His masterpiece—created in Christ Jesus for good works He prepared in advance for us to walk in.

- How do verses 8-9 guard you against two dangers: pride ("I earned this") and despair ("I'll never be good enough")? Which danger do you battle more often?
- Verse 10 says you are God's "workmanship/masterpiece." What unfinished areas of your life make it hard for you to believe that God sees you this way? How does the "unfinished Leonardo painting" illustration encourage you to trust the Artist's process?

Spiritual Truth from the sermon: “Your salvation is anchored in who God is, not in what you have done.”

- How can you preach this truth to your heart when guilt, shame, or comparison tries to steal your joy?

Section 3 – EMBRACE

Applying God’s Word

Go deeper into the Word of God by applying what you’ve learned to your life today. Reflect on these action steps and how you can live as God’s masterpiece in progress.

Remember Where You Were

Take a moment this week to write a brief “Before Christ” snapshot of your life – attitudes, habits, fears, or sins that marked you when you were spiritually dead and drifting. Then, next to that list, write the words “But God…” and note at least three ways He has made you alive, changed your direction, or shown you mercy.

Embrace Your New Position

Pray through Ephesians 2:4-7, thanking God specifically that you are made alive, raised up, and seated with Christ, even if you don’t fully feel it yet. Each day this week, when you face discouragement or temptation, whisper this simple confession: “In Christ, I am rescued and made alive – my life is in His hands.”

Live as God’s Masterpiece Under Construction

Ask the Lord to show you one specific good work He has prepared for you this week – a person to encourage, a need to meet, a conversation to have, or a step of obedience to take. Write it down, pray over it, and then follow through.

Memorize and Reflect

Memorize the memory verse for this week: Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) – “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

Throughout the week, repeat this verse when you feel overwhelmed or aimless. Ask: “Lord, where are You inviting me to walk in the good things You’ve already prepared for me today?”

Closing Challenge and Prayer

Remember, you are of great value in God’s eyes – you are His masterpiece in progress, rescued by grace, raised with Christ, and sent into the world to display His immeasurable riches of grace. Don’t let your past define you, your feelings derail you, or your unfinished areas discourage you; instead, fix your eyes on the Master Artist who will finish what He started in you.

Prayer: Father, thank You that when we were dead in our sins, You did not leave us in the rubble, but reached down in mercy and made us alive with Christ. Teach us to remember where You found us, to rest in who we are now in Jesus, and to walk boldly in the good works You prepared for us long ago. Help us to see ourselves as Your workmanship—rescued, redeemed, and under construction for Your glory. Use our lives to point others to the Savior who still rescues today. In Jesus’ name, Amen.