



KNOWING CHRIST

Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

LIVING IN CHRIST

Ephesians 2:1-22

Inductive Discovery Lesson 9

Someone has said that men who move the world do not let the world move them. Certainly Paul was such a man. When he found himself restricted to quarters in Rome, it changed his plans but not his purpose. Though confined by walls, his spirit soared. His aim intensified. As he meditated on God's plan of redemption, Paul was more conscious than ever of the blessings that belong to those who live in Christ Jesus.

After thirty years, the gospel of God's amazing grace was still on Paul's lips. It spilled into all his conversations and letters. While some experiences fade with time, the Damascus Road light that flooded truth into Paul's soul continued to blaze. He loved to think how every facet of grace reflects the glory of God's plan. Late at night, when cares or concerns made sleep difficult, Paul could rest knowing that God—*with His perfect plan in motion from the beginning of time*—was in control. So what if he was sequestered away while Rome postponed his case? Paul still found opportunities every day to praise God's love, mercy and grace.

Background

What would life for Paul in first-century Rome have been like? The city of Rome was built on seven hills. The average person lived in a tightly congested block of apartments three to five stories high. Shops and workrooms occupied the ground floor and families lived above. A typical flat was a long, narrow space divided into three sections. One large window opened onto the street below; nicer buildings had wood lattice shutters, iron bars or even a small balcony. The cobbled streets were so narrow that carts were banned from sunrise until 4:00 p.m. By day, the streets filled with pedestrians forced to jostle through the crowd and stay alert for falling debris and sewage routinely dumped from windows. Public latrines and baths were provided for all.

Paul's day probably began at sunrise. A typical breakfast would have been bread and olives. From his window, Paul could take in the sights, smells and sounds of daily life. Bakers, butchers, produce vendors and small taverns. Blacksmiths, potters, cobblers and cutlers. He could watch Roman *clients* (men of the lower class) set out early to wait in line to pay their respects to wealthy patrons who gave a small sum of money to get them through the day. He would have seen women on their way to small shrines with handfuls of food or flowers for a daily offering to some god or another. Wedding and funeral processions would have passed by his window. Perhaps he heard the excited roar of crowds cheering gladiators or chariot races at Circus Maximus.

By noon, work was finished; a light lunch was followed with rest and a bath. The public baths were a daily ritual for all Roman citizens; it was a chance to mingle, gossip, and relax. Romans prided themselves on being cleaner (therefore better) than people in other parts of the world.

The streets of Rome were not a safe place to be after dark. By dusk, most people returned home for dinner, barred their doors and stayed in for the night.

Working Text for Ephesians 2:1-22

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— **12** remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility **15** by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, **16** and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. **17** And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. **18** For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.



Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind.** *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

4

Ephesians 2:11-18

Facts from the passage:

[illegible]

My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

Ephesians 2:19-22

Facts from the passage:

This image shows a full page of primary-ruled paper. It features ten sets of horizontal dashed lines, each set consisting of three parallel lines. These lines are evenly spaced vertically across the entire page, providing a guide for letter height and placement in handwriting practice. The background is white, and there are no margins or additional markings.

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Ephesians 2:1-22

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“**surpassing riches** of His grace” (vs.7) _____

“we are His **workmanship**” (vs.10) _____

“good works” (vs.10) _____



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to ***put it into action***.

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Ephesians 2:1-10

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Ephesians 2:11-18

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Ephesians 2:19-22

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



Take a Closer Look

By grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves;
it is the gift of God, not of works,
lest anyone should boast.
Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJ

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

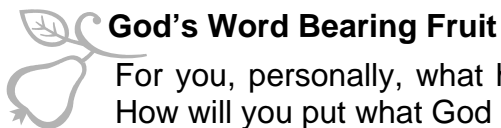
As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



Something to Think About . . .

G is for Gift: The *principle* of grace.
R is for Redemption: The *purpose* of grace.
A is for Access: The *privilege* of grace.
C is for Character: The *product* of grace.
E is for Eternal Life: The *prospect* of grace.

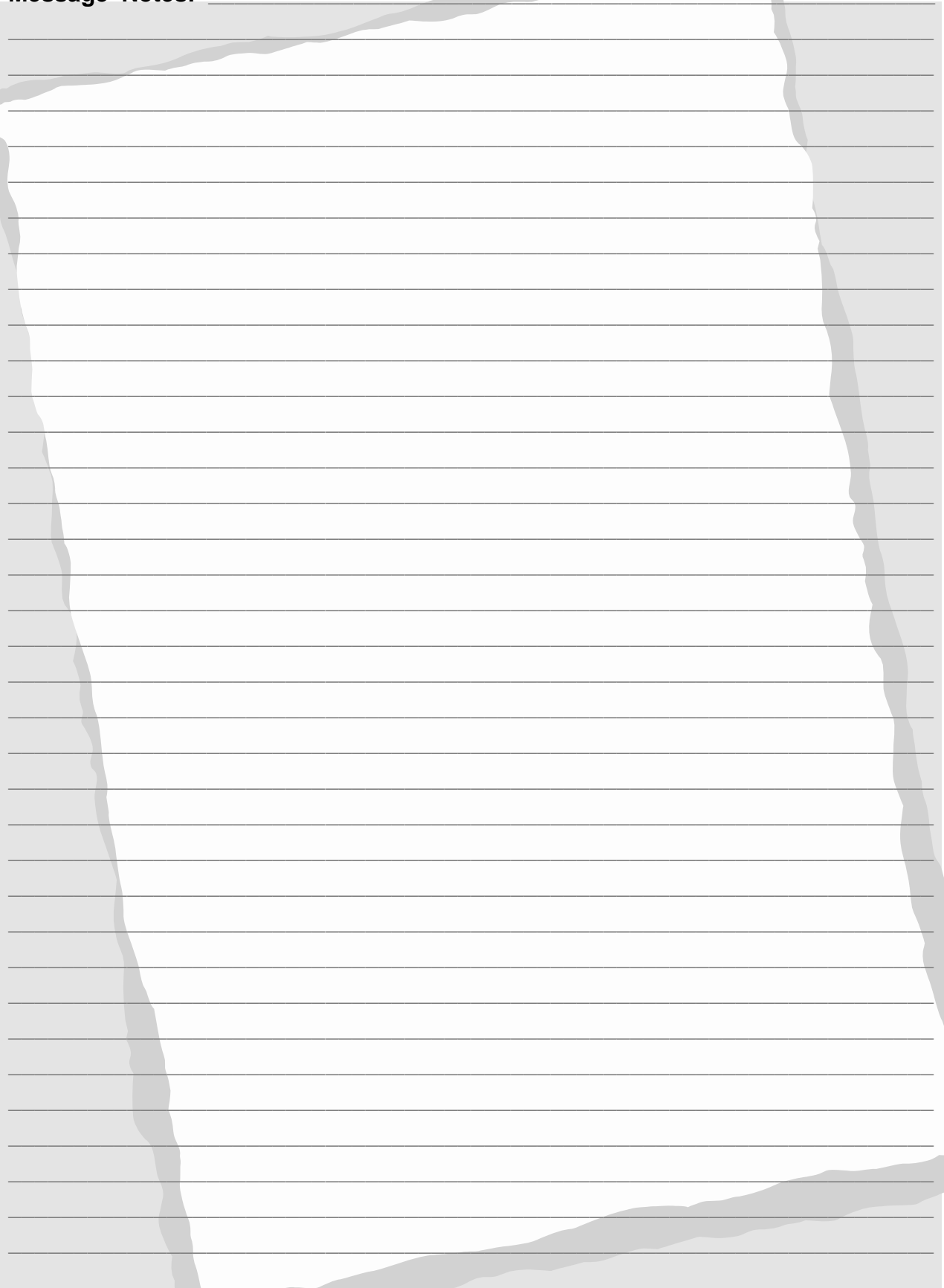
- Vance Havner



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with a torn paper border, containing horizontal lines for writing notes. The border is irregular and jagged, giving it the appearance of a piece of paper that has been torn out of a book or binder. The interior of the rectangle is filled with thin, horizontal gray lines, providing a guide for writing.



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