



Connection Group Participant Guide August 9, 2020

Ephesians 2

Key Principles

- Who we *were* is no longer who we *are* “in Christ.”
- The nature of our pre-salvation selves was eternally-spiritually dead.
- But God has acted to redeem us by His grace, which is a free gift.
- We are now to “partner” with Him and invite Him to do whatever He has to do to shape us into useful servants of His perfect will. We are His workmanship.
- Through God's redemptive work and our faith in Jesus, Jews and Gentiles alike are now one in Christ, reconciled to God through Him.

Highlight

“For by _____ you have been saved (v. 5)

Explain

Why do you think Paul chose to express our pre-salvation condition as “*dead in the trespasses and sins in which you walked*” (v. 1)?

Apply

In light of God's grace and the price that Christ paid as the penalty for our sins, Paul makes it abundantly clear that sin is not to be dealt with lightly. Give examples of ways that you try, in your daily decisions, to not “*carry out the desires of the body and the mind*” (v. 3).

Respond in Prayer

Read through Psalm 18 and listen with your heart to what it has to say. We recommend praying through this psalm on your own at home and together with your Connection Group.

- **Adoration:** Give God praise for the things that you see in Psalm 18.
- **Confession:** Ask God to forgive you for not always striving to live in peace with others.
- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God for the work that He has prepared in advance for you.
- **Supplication:** Ask God to lead you to a fuller understanding of being “*being brought near by the blood of Christ*” and “*in Christ Jesus.*”