

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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YOUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Ephesians 2

From time to time, we all wonder about our future, don't we? Sometimes people are desperate and might look at a fortune cookie. People will go to astrologers and palm readers and read their astrology columns in the newspaper or buy books, actually thinking that these frauds know the future when they don't.

In today's study in Ephesians 2, we will see what the Bible says about the past, present, and future of every believer.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **In the past of every believer, we were dead in trespasses and sins.** Ephesians 2:2 says, "You once walked according to the course of this world" (NKJV). The word walk could be translated "meandered, browsed, wandered loosely with no goal or purpose."
2. **Here now in our present, we are alive together with Christ.** "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ" (Ephesians 2:4–5 NKJV). That means you are not a victim of the devil because the power of Christ is around you. If you yield to Jesus, you don't have to live a life of constant defeat.
3. **God has your future marked out and it is good.** Why did God raise me to new life? Verse 7 says, "That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (NKJV). He chose you just to show you how much He loves you. That is how God is. He just can't wait for us to join Him in glory. He is looking forward to you coming to heaven.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- When you live in sin, you are spiritually dead. Your spiritual eyes and ears are not open. You don't have the capacity to understand spiritual things.
- Because we do fall short of God's glory, because He loves us so much, He sent His only Son Jesus Christ, who was fully God and fully Man, and uniquely qualified to bridge the gap between a holy God and unholy men and women.
- You don't have to constantly live in spiritual defeat. Take hold of the power that God has given you. You are seated with Jesus.

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APPLICABLE ACTIONS

If you were to die, would you go to heaven? You say, “I think so. I am a good person.” You are not. Or you say, “I am better than most people.” True. But you still have sinned. Or you say, “I hope.” Forget hoping. You can know by saying yes to Jesus and asking Him to forgive you. Then you can have absolute certainty that when you leave this world you will go to heaven.