

## What's Changed?

KO: What is a decision you have made that has changed how you think and act? (where you went to school, an organization you joined, etc.)

We're going to look at a passage that shows what happens when someone chooses to trust and follow Christ. We're going to look at what the Bible says about someone's life before Christ, the work of Christ, and life after Christ.

### **Life Before Christ**

*Read Ephesians 2:1-3 to yourselves.*

Q: What does verse 1 say was true of us?

A: You were dead in your transgressions and sins

1. You were dead

Q: How does being dead differ from what you previously thought about your status with God?

A: (We compare ourselves to the worst of the worst (adulterers, rapists, child predators, etc.) and think we're pretty good)

Q: What do you think verse 2 means?

A: The ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient is talking about Satan. It means that in our life before Christ, you and I were influenced by - even following – Satan.

You were influenced by Satan.

Q: How in verse 3 have you gratified the cravings of the sinful nature and followed its desires and thoughts?

Q: What does the last part of verse 3 say? (You were an object of wrath)

You were an object/deserving of wrath.

What does it mean to be an object of wrath/deserving of wrath?

A: We were a bullseye for God's judgment because of our sin

### **The Work of Christ**

*Read Ephesians 2:4-5*

God's love makes us alive

When someone is made alive through Christ, things start to change about them. They become more sensitive to God. They start to be broken over sin. They're able to read the Bible and have greater understanding. They start to desire obedience to Christ. Their old way of living doesn't appeal as much. Sin starts to become less attractive.

Q: Have you experienced any of the affects of being made alive in Christ? If so, which ones?

*Read Ephesians 2:8-9*

Q: The passage says it is by grace you have been saved 2 times (v.5, 8) which makes it important. What do you think it means to be saved?

A: Rescued from destruction

God's grace saves us

### **Life after Christ**

*Read Ephesians 2:6*

Q: What do you think it means to be seated with Christ in the heavenly realms?

A: We gain eternal life

You gain eternal life

*Read Ephesians 2:7*

Q: What is one of the reasons God saved us?

A: To show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in God's kindness to us

You gain God's kindness.

Why would God do all of this? Why would God kill his Son and save you from your sin? So that he could show you His kindness to you!

*Read Ephesians 2:10*

Q: What were we created in Christ for?

A: To do good works

You gain God's purpose.

Q: We aren't saved *by* works, but we were saved *for* works. What are some examples of good works you think the verse is referring to?

A: (Although not the only "work", sse this as a chance to highlight evangelism)