



Sermon Growth Guide

May 11, 2025

Caught up in Grace - Ephesians 2:4-5

Key Verse: Ephesians 1:18-19a

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”

Big Idea: The only way we can pray, the only way prayer is possible, is that we have been caught up in the grace of God.

Foundations

Paul's letter to the Ephesians is filled with thoughts and instructions, but also his prayers for these believers. Last week's growth guide set up this series by saying, “(Paul) prays that the Ephesians will know God deeply. He prays that they will understand the hope of new life and the inheritance they will have with Christ. He prays that they will know God's power – the same power that raised Jesus from the dead – which is at work in and through both them and us.” Paul uses this letter to remind the believers who they were and who they are now. In this passage, he recognizes our depravity and gleeful race towards death and then, against the backdrop of death, the absolute necessity of God's grace in our lives.

When we are caught up in grace, we seek a connection with the grace-giver. It is only natural that we turn towards prayer. The grace of God beckons us to pursue eternal life. We are most alive when we are praying, for we are connecting with the God of the universe. When we hear from Him and call on Him, we are most detached from death.

Grace prompts us to be thankful, to desire life and hope for others, to see God move in the lives of others in the same way. We pray because we remember and know what it is like to get caught up in death and our transgressions. God's grace frames our prayers.

Understanding God's Word

Together, read Ephesians 2:1-10.

Christians often focus on Ephesians 2:8-10. How does it help to read the broader context of this passage?

Paul, a former legalistic rule follower, is known for his focus on grace after His conversion. How do you see the juxtaposition of sin and grace in this passage? How do you see our recognition of God's grace as leading us toward a spirit of prayer?

Applying God's Word

What do you focus on in this passage – our sins, God's grace, or being made alive? Why?

What areas of your life do you live the truth that you've been made alive? Are there any areas where you continue to live towards death? Pastor Tim asks us “What are you using to save your soul?”

What are you relying on? What does it look like to pray without ceasing and rely on God's power through our prayers?

Witnessing God's Word

When you pray this week, frame your prayers with grace – the grace shown you, and the grace you desire for others. What are ways that you can live to eternal life?