

# *Ephesians*

## *Daily Readings*

### *Week Two*

**Athelstone Uniting Church**

We have a heart for connecting:  
with God, our community, our world and each other.

Greetings Athelstonians!

We are in Week 2 of slowly reading through Paul's letter to the churches in Ephesus (July 11- August 28).

In this resource you will find brief daily readings and space to journal, using the SOAP method.

You might choose to engage with the readings daily or a few times a week. Feel free to adapt this resource as much as you like.

For your information, the following videos provide an introduction to Ephesians:

BibleDex: <https://youtu.be/l7QE5l3XbF8>

BibleProject: <https://youtu.be/Y71r-T98E2Q>

The Bible Effect: <https://youtu.be/6FfIE2jS7-k>

Rick Steve: <https://youtu.be/mvPCtrZ1K00>

Blessings,

Rev Linda Driver

July 2021

## Reading Your Bible with SOAP!

*SOAP is a helpful way to read and reflect on a Bible passage*



### **S for SCRIPTURE:** *(TELL ME)*

Take your time reading today's scripture in the 3 translations provided. Allow God to speak to you. Next, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you. Write it down. Feel free to make it a work of art.



### **O for OBSERVATION:** *(SHOW ME)*

What is God saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you. Be curious!

If you want to go deeper, research the passage further. Look up meanings in the original Greek or Hebrew. Consider who the author is addressing and the cultural context at the time it was written.

Bible Hub has some helpful tools for this: <https://biblehub.com/>

Write the scripture in your own words.



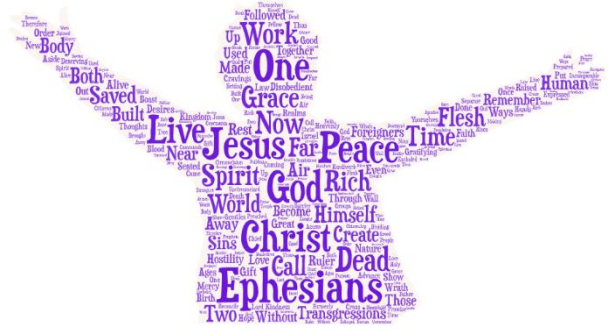
### **A for APPLICATION:** *(HELP ME)*

How does the scripture apply to your life right now? Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation, or correction. Write down how it applies to you today.



### **P for PRAYER:** *(LET ME)*

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what God may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Spend some time in silent contemplation. Write down the words that come.



# Week 2 – Day 1

## Ephesians 2:1-5

### New International Version

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

### The Message

It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ.

### The Inclusive Bible

You were dead because of your sins and offenses, <sup>2</sup> which you committed in your allegiance both to the present age and to the ruler of the power of the air – that spirit who is even now at work among “the children of rebellion.” <sup>3</sup> And all of us were among them; we lived at the level of the flesh, following every whim of the flesh, every fancy of this age, and so by nature deserved God's wrath like the rest.

<sup>4</sup> But God, rich in mercy and loving us so much, <sup>5</sup> brought us to life in Christ, even when we were dead in our sins. It is through this grace that we have been saved.

# *Ephesians 2:1-5*

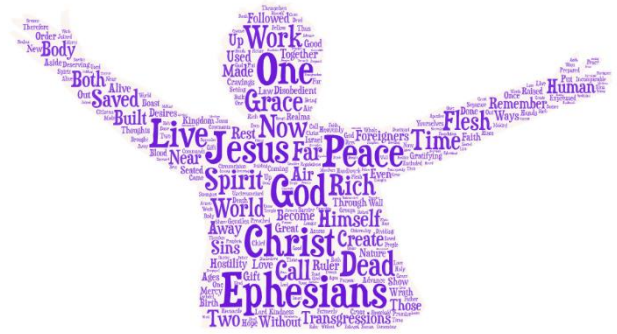
*Scripture*

*Observation*

*Application*

*Prayer*

# Day 2



## Ephesians 2:6-7

### New International Version

<sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

### The Message

He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.

Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus.

### The Inclusive Bible

<sup>6</sup> God raised us up and, in union with Christ Jesus, gave us a place in the heavenly realm, <sup>7</sup> to display in ages to come how immense are the resources of God's grace and kindness in Christ Jesus.

# *Ephesians 2:6-7*

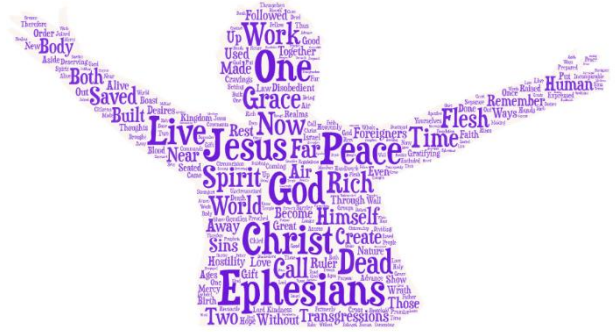
*Scripture*

*Observation*

*Application*

*Prayer*

# Day 3



## Ephesians 2:8-10

### New International Version

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

### The Message

Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It’s God’s gift from start to finish! We don’t play the major role. If we did, we’d probably go around bragging that we’d done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

### The Inclusive Bible

<sup>8</sup> And it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith – and even that is not of ourselves, but the gift of God. <sup>9</sup> Not is it a reward for anything that you have done, so nobody can claim the credit. <sup>10</sup> We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to do the good things God created us to do from the beginning.

# *Ephesians 2:8-10*

*Scripture*

*Observation*

*Application*

*Prayer*





# *Ephesians 2:11-13*

*Scripture*

*Observation*

*Application*

*Prayer*



# *Ephesians 2:14-18*

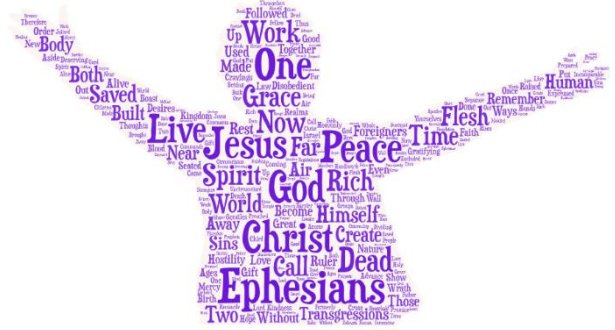
*Scripture*

*Observation*

*Application*

*Prayer*

# Day 6



## Ephesians 2:19-22

### New International Version

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

### The Message

<sup>19-22</sup> That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

### The Inclusive Bible

<sup>19</sup> This means that you are strangers and aliens no longer. No, you are included in God's holy people and are members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> which is built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Christ Jesus as the capstone. <sup>21</sup> In Christ the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in our God; <sup>22</sup> in Christ you are being built into this temple, to become a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

# *Ephesians 2:19-22*

*Scripture*

*Observation*

*Application*

*Prayer*

