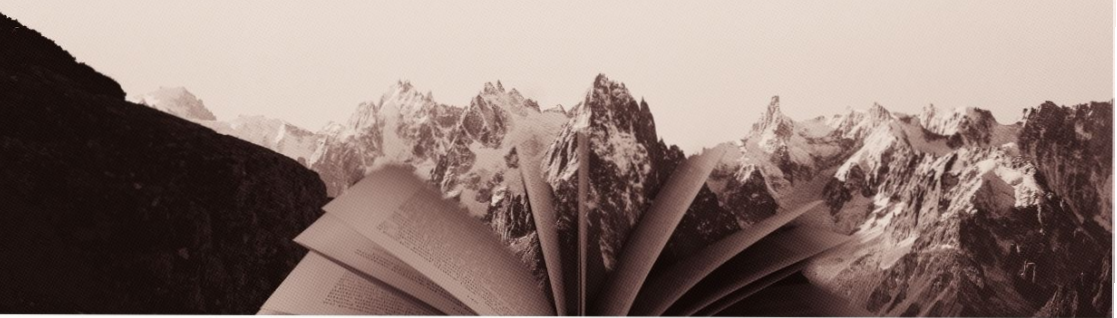


THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Daily Devotions

Get the most out of the
book of Ephesians by
spending regular time
reading and pondering
the word of God



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Day 8

Read: **Ephesians 1:15-23**

Yesterday we read that GOD PUT ALL THINGS UNDER CHRIST'S FEET. Today: AND GAVE HIM TO THE CHURCH AS THE HEAD OVER ALL THINGS.

Christ is the head over all – and He is the head over our all. We are the church; He is the boss. He allows leaders just like He does in the world, and He has established order, but He is the boss. What does this mean, if we allow this?

NOW, THE CHURCH IS HIS BODY, THE FULLNESS OF HIM WHO FILLS ALL IN ALL.

If we are honest, do we feel like that, as the church? Firstly, pull your mind back from looking at the church as something you are evaluating, over there. Whenever you consider the church, you need to put yourself smack bang in the middle of it! So, coming back to we, the church – do we feel like this? The fullness of Him who fills all in all? Filled entirely? With His presence, and power? God fill me with Your presence and Your power!



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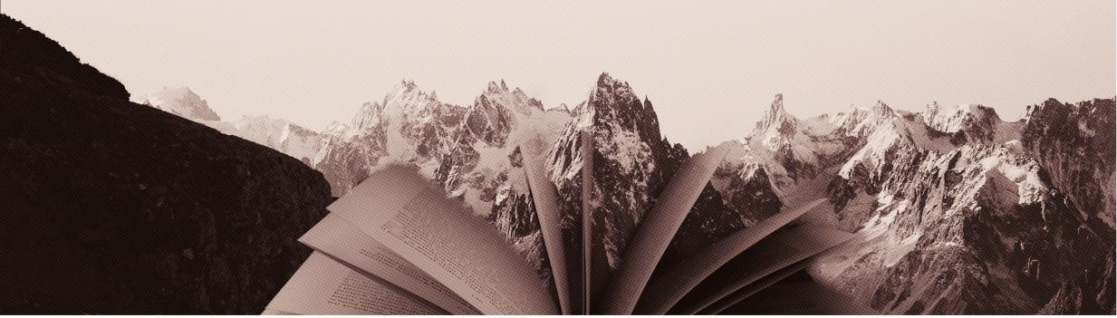
Day 9

Read: **Ephesians 2:1-10**

V1-3 is one incomplete sentence, finishing, as it were,
with a ...

Don't you recognise yourself here? Living ACCORDING
TO THE WORLD'S PRESENT PATH, subject to sin
outwardly ACCORDING TO THE RULER OF THE AIR,
subject to sin inwardly to THE RULER OF THE SPIRIT...
ENERGISING...DISOBEDIENCE, and verse 3, where we
lived amongst it and got amongst it. However, we have
the triumphant phrase kicking us into the next section.

BUT GOD...



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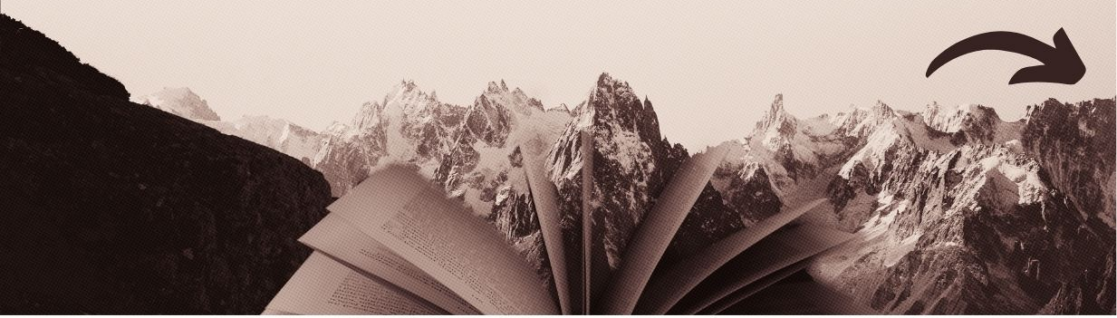
Day 10

Read: **Ephesians 2:1-10**

We left off yesterday with a **BUT GOD** hanging in the balance. How marvelous that the facts of yesterday are nothing compared with the truth here!

BUT GOD, because HE IS SO RICH IN MERCY, and BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE WITH WHICH HE LOVED US, EVEN THOUGH verses 1-3 are 100% true, we have been resurrected to new life, raised with Him! BY GRACE WE ARE SAVED! That would have been enough, but God sees fit to not just forgive us but to raise us up, to seat us TOGETHER WITH HIM IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS IN CHRIST JESUS. I wouldn't sit me with God!

But God says that is what He has done. Why? TO DEMONSTRATE THE SURPASSING WEALTH OF HIS GRACE AND KINDNESS TOWARDS US IN CHRIST JESUS...

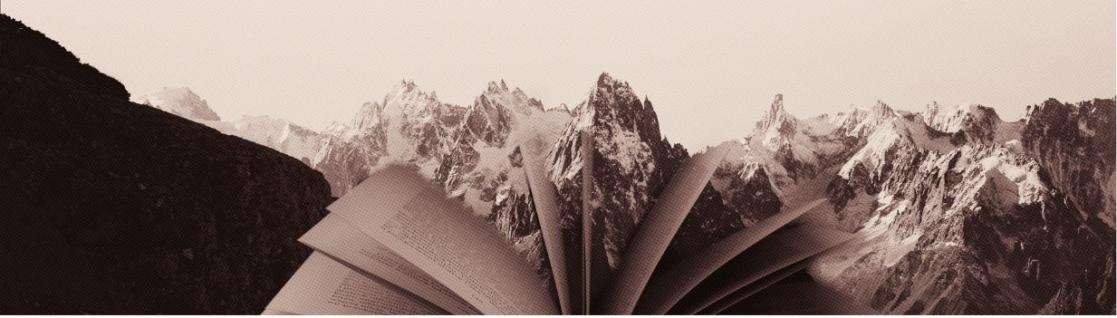


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How does the truth that you are currently seated in the heavenly realms with God change your outlook on life?

How does the truth that God loved you with great love while you were dead in your sins change your outlook on you? How does it change your outlook on God?

Read **Romans 8:19-20**



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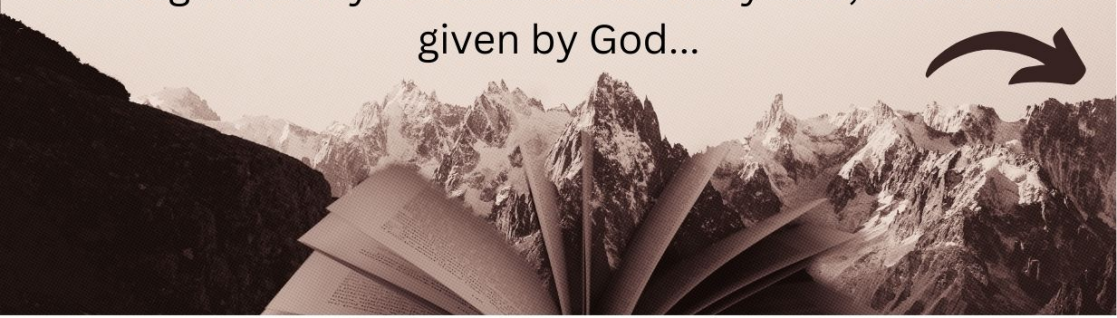
Day 11

Read: **Ephesians 2:1-10**

FOR BY GRACE YOU ARE SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND
THIS IS NOT FROM YOURSELVES

Grace – described in so many ways. Some use the acronym God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense – meaning we get the goods while bearing none of the cost.

Others describe it as unmerited favour. “God freely extending Himself, reaching to people because He is disposed to bless them”. (HELPS word studies) By grace, we are saved. **Sozo**: saved, healed, delivered. Furthermore, we might think – grace, salvation = His part, faith = our part. However, faith is always a gift from God! His divine persuasion gives birth to our belief and confidence in Him. WE can’t work up our faith, we are fully dependent on Him for it. The faith through which you were saved was yours, but it was given by God...



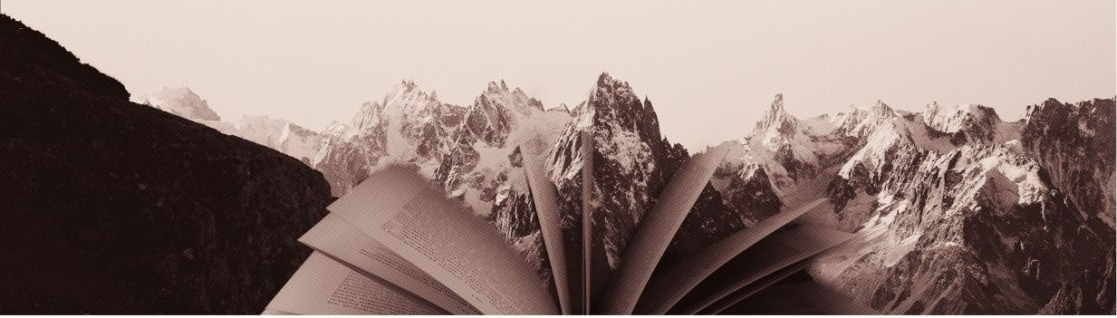
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AND THIS NOT FROM YOURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD, IT IS NOT FROM WORKS, SO THAT NO ONE CAN BOAST. His work of salvation is a miracle, from start to finish. The God who intended that also intended this:

FOR WE ARE HIS CREATIVE WORK, HAVING BEEN CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS THAT GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND SO WE CAN DO THEM.

This miracle of salvation is not so God can leave us as we are – He has a purpose for our saved selves! There are things on the earth He is going to get done, and He has saved us, located us, and positioned us to ensure they are!

Ask God what good works God may have prepared for you to do in this season.



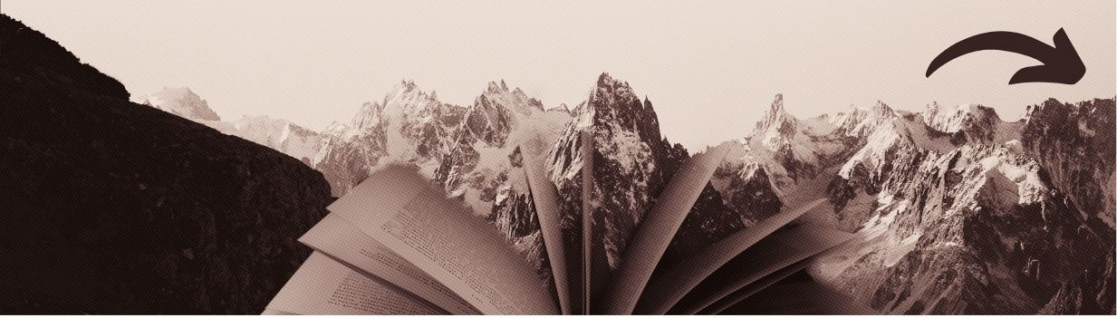
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Day 12

Read: **Ephesians 2:11-22**

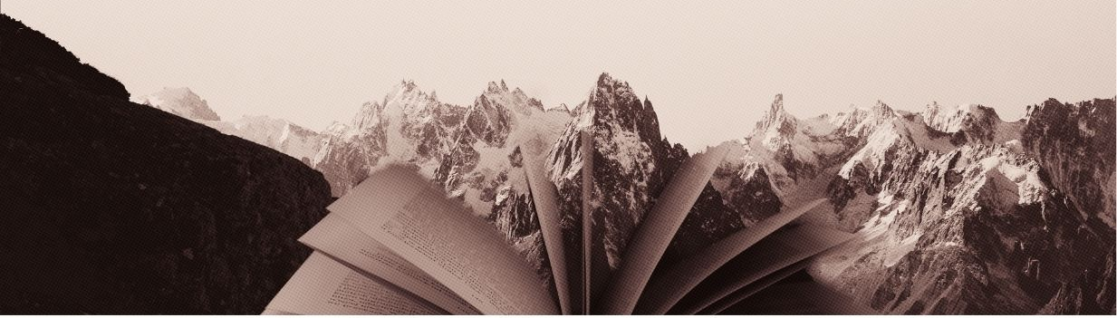
In verse 11, we see that by this stage of His letters, Paul is getting quite derisive about the circumcision argument (i.e., that everyone must follow Jewish practises when they decide to follow Jesus). He is saying “we aren’t there anymore guys! It isn’t who’s in and who’s out based on traditions and practises!) In verse 12 however, he uses the idea of who’s in and who’s out to show where we truly did sit: and you, me, we, us, we were alienated, excluded, and very certainly on the outs. WITHOUT HOPE AND WITHOUT GOD.

That is the currently state of our world. People are lost and alone, and many of them don’t even know it. Are you currently praying for some lost people? If not, why not? Begin to plan to make a habit of praying for at least 3 people that you know are without God...



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We were there, in that darkness. The majority of the world still are there. Fortunately, we'll end today and start tomorrow with BUT NOW IN CHIRST JESUS...



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Day 13

Read: **Ephesians 2:11-22**
BUT NOW IN CHRIST JESUS

-Us who were far away are brought near.

-Any partition is nullified (here, Paul is addressing that of Jews and Gentiles, emphasising to the Jews that they weren't superior, emphasising to the non-Jews [us, Gentiles] that we weren't inferior)

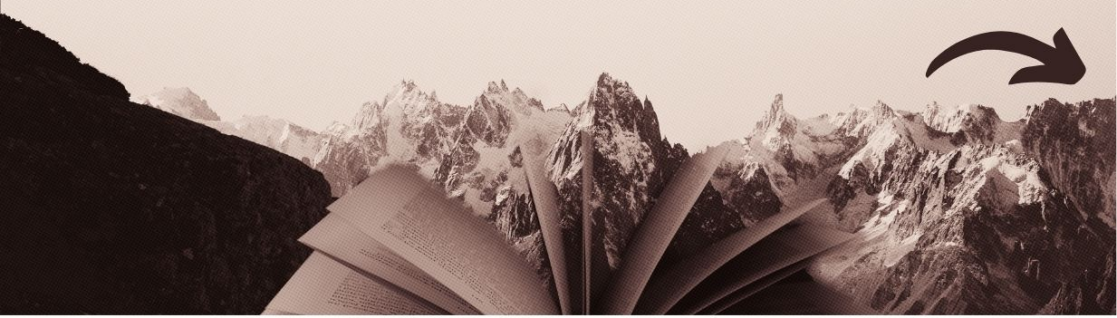
-The hostility between people groups is dead.

-He gave equal access to Him.

This is what the cross did! This has all been achieved:

-By the blood of Christ

-In His flesh (the Greek is "by killing the hostility in Himself"). He didn't just take our sin; He took the hostility it creates...



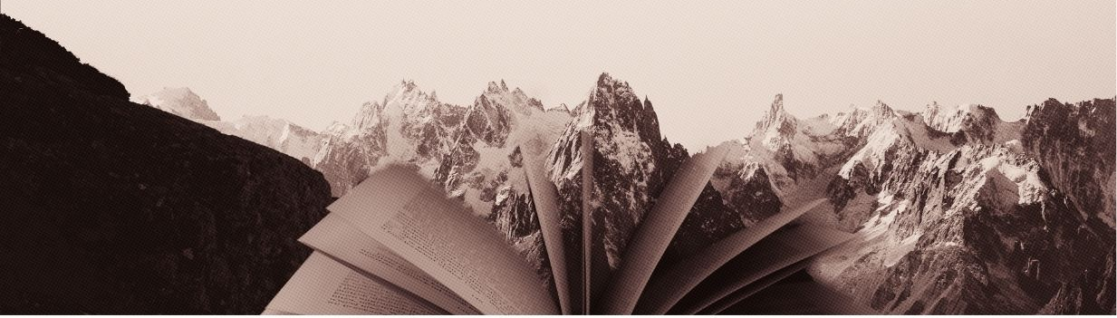
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-Through the cross

-By Him coming and preaching peace

The cross is about so much more than just reconciling us to God. It is meant to reconcile the world to God, and in Him, the world to each other.

Pause for a moment and consider what Jesus dying on the cross means for you.



THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Day 14

Read: **Ephesians 2:11-22**

Circle everywhere you see “peace” in this passage. Paul is clearly trying to emphasise the peace that Jesus brings. This peace is a “tying together into a whole”. (HELPS word studies)

*Peace, bring it all to peace,
The storm surrounding me,
Let it break, at Your name,
Still, call the sea to still,
The rage in me to still,
Every wave, at Your name.*

*Jesus, Jesus, You make the darkness tremble,
Jesus, Jesus, You silence fear...*

(Tremble, Mosaic)

The hostility between humankind and God. The hostility around us. The hostility we are in. The hostility in us. He comes and preaches peace to it all.

