



Saint James AME Church

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Rev. Dr. Ronald L. Slaughter, Senior Pastor

Women's Bible Study

Rev. Theresa Andrews, Minister to Women

First Lady Kyla Slaughter, Women's Ministry Advisor

Tuesdays at 6:15 PM

May 12, 2020

Rev. Dr. Mary Williams, Facilitator

Subject: Made Alive with Christ

Book: Ephesians 2:1-10

**Ephesians 2 New International Version
(NIV)**

Made Alive in Christ

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in 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. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh^[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have

been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

New International Version (NIV)

Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®
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Subject of Consideration:

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter when he was in prison between A.D. 60 and 63. Many biblical scholars believe that Paul spent two or three years in Ephesus. He was successful with spreading the gospel. Paul shares some rich biblical truths in Ephesians. In this Chapter he reminds the believers of our new identity in Christ Jesus. Paul gave this letter to Tychicus to distribute. He wanted believers to mature in Christ Jesus. In order to live out our lives victoriously, we must remember and understand who we are in Christ Jesus.

In Chapter 2, Paul teaches us that as Christians, we are growing and coming from death to life. Whether we are new believers or seasoned Christians, we are given the gift of grace. We are also still maturing in Christ. We do it step by step. The Lord loves us. The Lord does not beat us up in the journey and we likewise should not be harsh with ourselves. It will take us a while to grow in maturity. In order to grow, we must be spending time with the Lord. During this season in our lives, we need to honestly self-examine ourselves. Paul tells us in Romans that we should not think more highly of ourselves than we ought. (Romans 12:3). We need to ask ourselves whether we are growing and are we helping others to grow. We want to come out of this season better showing more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit like kindness. We will see fruit if we do not faint. (Galatians 6:9).

Questions to Consider:

1. How do we grow in Christ? (Matthew 6:33)
2. What is your scheduled time with Jesus?
3. How do you feel that you are growing in Christ?
4. Are you reflecting on what God is trying to show you during this difficult season? Are you moving in that direction?
5. Can you give an instance when you were not being authentic with someone or someone was not being authentic with you?

Homework Assignment

- Reflect on being sisters of integrity that say what you mean and mean what you say.
- Pray about what God is saying about your spiritual growth and being genuine in your relationships.
- Read Ephesians 2:11-22.

Thank you Sisters in Christ for sharing this journey of study. Let us continue to grow in God and enjoy fellowship with each other. Remember to pass it on.