

studies from
EPHESIANS
Beauty for Ashes
2:1-22

- ❖ Read this week's passage.
- ❖ Considering what you have just read and thinking back to Sunday's teaching on this passage, is there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
- ❖ Referring to Ephesians 1:1 and 1:5 fill in the blanks in the following sentence. (*Pastor Kurt uses the NASB*)

You were once **D**_____ in your trespasses and sins but God has made you **A**_____ together with Christ.

- ❖ The above sentence highlights the Apostle Paul's focus on what we once were (dead) but now are (alive). Discuss how the once/were pattern is reflected in the following passage.

Colossians 1:13–14

¹³ For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- ❖ If you feel comfortable doing so, share your own "once/now" experience.

(The bible refers to this in the Gospel of John chapter three as being "born again" or "born from above.")

- ❖ Read Luke 7:36-50. Discuss this story (*especially verse 47*) in light of the following statement:

No one appreciates the medicine properly unless they fully understand the seriousness of the disease.

- ❖ In verse 1:20-21 we read that Jesus was raised from the dead. The verse goes on to describe Jesus' ascension into heaven after his resurrection. In your own words record what these verses tell us about Christ's ascension.
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- ❖ Re-read verse 2:6. Note the tense of the verb "seated" and then discuss how this enlightens you to your new identity as a follower of Jesus Christ. Answer the question "In light of this verse, who am I now?"
- ❖ According to verse 2:7 what is God's purpose of seating us with Christ in the heavenly places?
- ❖ Discuss what it was that we **once** "walked in" according to verse 2:2 and what we **now** walk according to verse 2:10. (a few translations will have "lived" in verse 2 and "to do" or something similar in verse 10, however in both verses the original word is the same.)
- ❖ Consider how you are actually walking out your Christian life by completing the following statement; "My spiritual life is best described as walking according to _____."
- ❖ Discuss how Paul's twice repeated phrase in verses 2:5 and 2:8; "For by Grace you have been saved" affects, or ought to affect, your answer to the above question.