

NEW

The Week of June 26, 2022

New Hope

Conversation Guide

Intro Questions

- Ever had a difficult period in your life where you wished you could turn back the clock to a season of life you remember as being better?
- Why do people return to church often when faced with a crisis, a new challenge (like kids), serious disease or the loss of relationship or death?
- A follower of Jesus Christ should be pulled toward the past or future? Why?



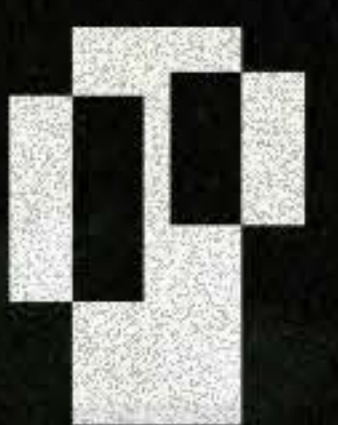
NEW

- Optional RightNow video on Hope:
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/205988?session=205988>

New Hope

Ephesians 1:17-19

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.



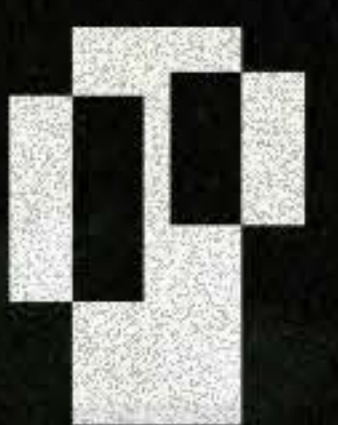
NEW

What was the Apostle Paul asking God to give the Ephesian believers?

- What is meant by “eyes of your heart?”
- Enlightened “eyes” lead to what knowledge? List the three things it gives knowledge of.
- Stop and have a time of prayer where the leader prays this scripture over the group members.

Ephesians 1:20-23

He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens—far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over



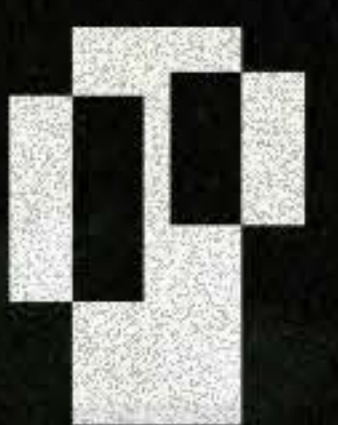
NEW

everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

- Following Paul's prayer, he gives the source of a new life and a new hope. How does Paul explain the power of Christ?
- Is that power sufficient to triumph over anything in your past, present or future?
- How is that tied in with the "body of Christ," the Church?

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. We too



NEW

all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.

- Before Christ, the Ephesian believers lived in a very dark society. How does our life and world we live in reflect a similar situation?
- We are all born with a sinful nature, but we often start giving ourselves a break by comparing ourselves to those around us. How does that assessment stack up to comparing ourselves to the sinless perfection of a holy Christ?
- Should let our past define and trap us as believers in Christ?



NEW

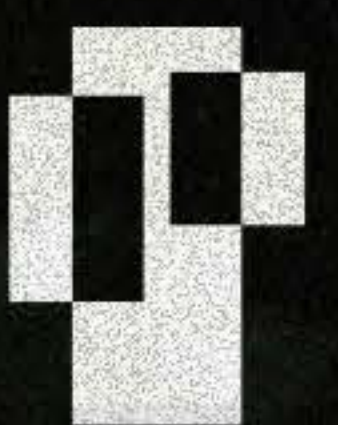
Ephesians 2: 4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.



NEW

- How significant is the conjunction “But” in Paul’s line of thought?
- Why did God rescue us?
- How did God make us alive?
- What saves us?
- What role does God’s grace play?
- What role does our faith play?
- What role does our good works play in our salvation?
- Why were we created in Christ Jesus?
- God has prepared us for good works. How does that give the believer hope?
- Analyze your salvation experience according to verses 8-9. Are you putting your faith in your works or in God’s grace in the work of Jesus Christ on your behalf?



NEW

Psalms 138:8

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me.

Lord, your faithful love endures forever;

do not abandon the work of your hands.

- Sentence structure: Subject – Verb – Object of this verse
- What hope does this verse give you?

Philippians 2:13

For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.

- How does God accomplish His good purpose?
- Where do we get the willpower and work ability?



NEW

- How does that give you hope each day as you know in the present and future He is at work in you?

Next Steps

- Memorize and meditate on Philippians 2:13 and Psalms 138:8. Meditate on what your hope is pinned on.
- Think of someone you can share the what Ephesians 2:8-9 means to you and your relationship with God.
- Anything from your past that keeps occupying your thoughts write out in a prayer of surrender to God based on Philippians 4:6-8 and write out and think about what you are thankful for and the things good that we can think about (v. 8).

