



## Maidenhead Congregation Small Group Notes Ephesians 2:1-10 “But God...”

**Before considering the points below, start by reading the letter through from 1:1-2:10. Ask 3 people to read out loud 1:1-14, 1:15-23, 2:1-10**

1. The passage talks about our condition outside of God, and what God has done about that. Without God we are at the mercy of the sinfulness of our environment, our own bad choices, our selfish desires and even direct spiritual attack. The good news is there that there is a 'But God...!'

*1:4-5 “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ”*

What “But God..” things do you want to give thanks for today? Things that would be true in your life – sadly, badly true – were it not for God's grace?

**[Maybe ask people to actually write some things down – draw up 2 columns – Without God/But God. Give some time for people to reflect and then invite testimony]**

2. “We are His workmanship”..... The Greek word here for 'workmanship' is the same word from which we get the word 'poetry'. Some of us find it hard to accept that we are God's poetry! But we are!!

Verse 2:6 talks about the fact that we are seated in heavenly places with Christ. That means (as Christen reminded us a couple of weeks ago) that we can see things from God's perspective. We need to do that to understand how he sees us. So how does he see YOU? How does he describe you? How does he talk about you? (cf Job 1:8 – God does talk about us!)

**[Again, take some time and ask people to write something down. If you feel confident in doing so, help people by taking them through a process of imagining themselves seated in heavenly places, looking at themselves and the work of God in their life. What does God say? Invite people to share what they have written down. NB Obviously handle this topic sensitively. Some people may find it difficult due to poor self image. There may be a need for prayer – but this is a good thing if it can bring breakthrough for people! Be prepared with suggestions for follow up – either within the group or calling on the wider resources of the church eg Heartstyles, Sozo, Freedom in Christ. Your Cong Team or Linda Southwood can help with suggestions.]**

3. “Created in Christ Jesus for good works...” What good things does the Lord want you to be doing to make a difference? Is there something new that he is speaking to you about? Did he say something on Sunday?