

EPHESIANS

ALIVE IN CHRIST

WE HAVE BEEN MADE ALIVE

Ephesians 2:1–7

RELATED SCRIPTURES

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 06.22.25

Lamentations 3:22–23 | John 11:38–44 | Romans 3:20–28

SUMMARY

The second chapter of Ephesians begins with the apostle Paul painting a grim picture. He reminds the church of the state of our souls prior to being saved—prior to *regeneration*. Paul says before the Holy Spirit quickened our hearts, we were “dead in trespasses and sins” (v. 1). This means that even though we were biologically alive, we were dead to the things of God with no ability whatsoever to even ask for God’s help. In this spiritually dead condition, our only impulse was to follow “the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air,” and by nature, “children of [God’s] wrath” (vv. 2–3). In this state, sin had such on hold on us that we never had so much as a positive desire for Christ—as is the case for all of mankind (v. 3). However, as Paul paints this picture, he brings us to the “But God” moment of his exposition; though we were at enmity with God, he gave us mercy (v. 4). Strikingly, this was our only path to redemption; we had no ability to restore ourselves from death so it would have to be God’s mercy, motivated by his deep, eternal love for us (vv. 4–5). With the mercy of God comes newness of life so that by his grace, he “made us alive” in Christ. This action, done by God’s own doing alone, then gives us the ability to choose the things of God. Where we were once at odds with him, we increasingly become inclined toward him with a renewed ability to walk in his ways and follow his laws and instruction. This action of God should ultimately lead us to a profound place of humility, realizing that anything good in which we find ourselves engaged isn’t a result of our abilities—it is a result of the grace of God alone. He finds us in death and regenerates us back to life for a particular purpose—to glorify him and reflect his character back to him. To God be the glory!

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Ephesians 2:1–7.

When you read Paul’s writing about all of mankind being “children of wrath,” how do you receive that? Before Jesus saved you, did you see yourself as being at enmity with God? Why or why not?

What is your understanding of grace? What is grace, and how does it relate to being made alive in Christ? How does grace play a part in our good works?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.