



ENOGERA BAPTIST CHURCH  
Jesus changes lives

## EPHESIANS: PART #1 SALVATION



### *Ephesians #5 – We Are Made Alive (2:1-7)*

*“But God, being rich in mercy,  
because of the great love with which he loved us,  
even when we were dead in our trespasses,  
made us alive together with Christ”*

**Ephesians 2:4-5a**

#### NOTE FOR LEADERS

This document is intended to be used as a discussion *guide*, rather than a curriculum. As small group leaders, please feel free to lead through the topic as most appropriate for your group.

#### HOUSEKEEPING

Things going at the moment:

- **Church Working Bee** – 5<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30am
- **Alpha Course! Thursday nights – Be praying for us**
  - **Pray** – God’s Spirit to draw people and open up their hearts.



## EPHESIANS #5 – WE ARE MADE ALIVE (2:1-7)

### REFLECT

This is a time to generate some discussion by reflecting on the ideas in this week's message. Some ideas include:

- Ask the group to debrief for those who have missed the sermons on Sunday
- What stood out? Do you have any questions?
- Were there any special moments of clarity where God spoke to you clearly?

### DIG INTO THE WORD

Let's dig a little deeper. Use the biblical text to discover what God reveals to us in his Word.

**Ephesians 2:1-7** <sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

### APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives. Get group members to talk about the real-life implications of the study.

1. **DISCUSS:** How are we to apply these things? Are there any immediate implications?
2. **DEAD IN SIN:** Read verses 1-3.
  - a. *What were the four ways Paul describes our natural plight due to sin? (Dead in sin, captive by Satan, enslaved to our corrupt nature and under God's wrath)*
  - b. *Which of these four is the one you tend to most under-appreciate? Why?*
  - c. *Looking back on your life before you became a Christian, how were these forces at work in you?*
  - d. *What is God's wrath? How is it different to arbitrary anger?*
  - e. *What would an under-appreciation of the hard truths of verses 1-3 mean for us? What would it do to our understanding of salvation broadly, and the cross specifically?*
3. **WE ARE ALIVE IN CHRIST:** Read verses 4-7.
  - a. *What makes the two words "BUT GOD" in verse 4 so sweet?*
  - b. *What are the three separate actions God has done for us in verses 5-6? What are some of the implications?*



- c. *How would you use these verses to explain in the gospel to a non-Christian friend in one minute?*
    - d. The next question is what Paul says about WHY God chose to make us alive. *What moved God to make us alive?*
  4. **REFLECT:** Read verse 7.
    - a. Take some time to reflect on the fact that we spend eternity marvelling at the extravagant riches of God's grace towards us. *Does this excite you?*

#### Helpful Definitions:

**Wrath:** *God's settled, justified hatred of and anger at sin.*

**Flesh:** *not our physical body but our sinful nature; that is, our sinful disposition towards self-centredness and self-sufficient independence of God*

## PRAY

Pray for one another as we seek to embrace our true identity in Christ.

Spend some time in prayer giving thanks to God for the salvation He has provided for us in Christ, and for those whom you know who remain "dead" to God.

## NOTES

**1:3–3:21** *Calling of the Church Within Christ's Cosmic Reconciliation.* Paul unfolds for his readers God's eternal plan to unify all things in Christ, and explains how the church is to understand its call and identity—who it is, how it came about, and what its mission is within this plan.

**2:1–10** *Made Alive in Christ.* Paul wrote earlier of God's plan to unite all things under the headship of Christ (1:10). He now explains how God will accomplish his purposes, beginning with the reconciliation of individuals to God. This section contrasts the believers' sinful past (vv. 1–3) with their present salvation in Christ (vv. 4–7) and affirms the grace of God as the basis of this salvation (vv. 8–10). The presence of a "we-you" contrast continues the theme of 1:11–14. Both Jews and Gentiles are in the same predicament without Christ, and both share the same privileges in Christ. Paul's description of the salvation of believers is thoroughly God-centered. God initiates our salvation, his love and mercy motivate it, and his grace grounds it. Ultimately, the display of God's grace is the purpose of our salvation.

**2:1 dead.** Before God's action, everybody who is born is spiritually dead and alienated from the God who is life and gives life. There is no way that we can respond positively to the gospel. **in your transgressions and sins.** The Greek construction not only denotes the cause of our pitiful condition (cf. Gen 2–3; Rom 6:23) but also emphasizes our position outside Christ. Instead of being "in Christ" (Eph 2:6, 7, 10), we were "in ... transgressions and sins." The two plural synonyms "transgressions and sins" highlight the severity and variety of our deliberate and willful rebellion against God's holiness and righteousness.



**2:2** Before introducing the grace of God, Paul further shows our plight in vv. 2–3. **live.** Or “walk” (see note on v. 10). **this world.** Unbelievers are oriented to life in this “present evil age” (Gal 1:4) rather than in the “one to come” (Eph 1:21). **ruler.** Satan. **the air.** Part of the heavenly realms that is the abode of evil spirits. **spirit ... at work in those who are disobedient.** Satan influences unbelievers, those who reject the authority of God.

**2:3 us ... our ... we.** Paul switches to first person plural pronouns, indicating that Jewish believers prior to their conversion were in the same predicament as his Gentile readers. Belonging to the covenant people of Israel does not automatically assure acceptance by God. Neither possession of the law nor physical circumcision has any benefit unless the law is obeyed (Rom 2:1–3:8). **flesh.** The unregenerate state of human beings; our natural propensity to oppose God’s will and the Spirit (Gal 5:16–21). **by nature.** As descendants of Adam, we inherit his guilt and deserve God’s anger and judgment (Rom 5:12–21). **wrath.** God’s wrath is not a mechanistic process of cause and effect but is a personal manifestation of his perfect holiness. Unlike the capricious and vindictive spite of many Greco-Roman deities, God’s wrath is the necessary and appropriate response to creatures who reject their Creator and spurn his mercy (John 3:36). God metes out his wrath in the present (Rom 1:18) and will do so climactically in the future (Rom 2:5; 1 Thess 1:10).

**2:4 But.** Introduces the contrasting situation that solely God’s action brings about. **great love.** God’s wrath does not contradict his love. God in his perfection displays his wrath against us because we have offended him; but God in his perfection loves us because he is a loving God. God’s wrath and love are simultaneously displayed on the cross. **rich in mercy.** God’s compassion toward us stems from his great love rather than any good we do.

**2:5–6 you have been saved ... in Christ Jesus.** In these verses, Paul emphasizes aspects of our salvation that are a present reality. Due to our union “with Christ,” God has accomplished three events spiritually for believers that he did for Christ: (1) **made us alive.** We possess a living relationship with God (Rom 6:1–11). (2) **raised us up.** We presently experience spiritual resurrection life. The resurrection of our physical bodies will occur when Christ returns. (3) **seated us.** Being seated with Christ, we share in his victory over the demonic powers (1:20–21) and are no longer obligated to follow the world, the devil, and the flesh (vv. 1–3). **with him.** Although seated with Christ, we are not seated at God’s right hand. That exalted position is reserved for Christ alone.

**2:7 show ... his grace.** The climactic purpose of God’s act of salvation in vv. 4–6 is to demonstrate his grace for all eternity.<sup>1</sup>

## REFERENCE:

Developed with the help of the following:

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<sup>1</sup> Moo, D. J. (2015). [The Letters and Revelation](#). In D. A. Carson (Ed.), *NIV Zondervan Study Bible: Built on the Truth of Scripture and Centered on the Gospel Message* (pp. 2401–2402). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.



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- ESV Study Bible, Crossway.
- NIV Zondervan Study Bible.