

# All-Ages Adult Life Group Expositional Study

## Ephesians Ch. 2:1-7

### Coming Alive in Christ By Grace Through Faith

Class Reference: **Knowing the Bible Series**  
[Week 4: The Dead Alive by Grace \(Eph. 2:1–10\)](#)

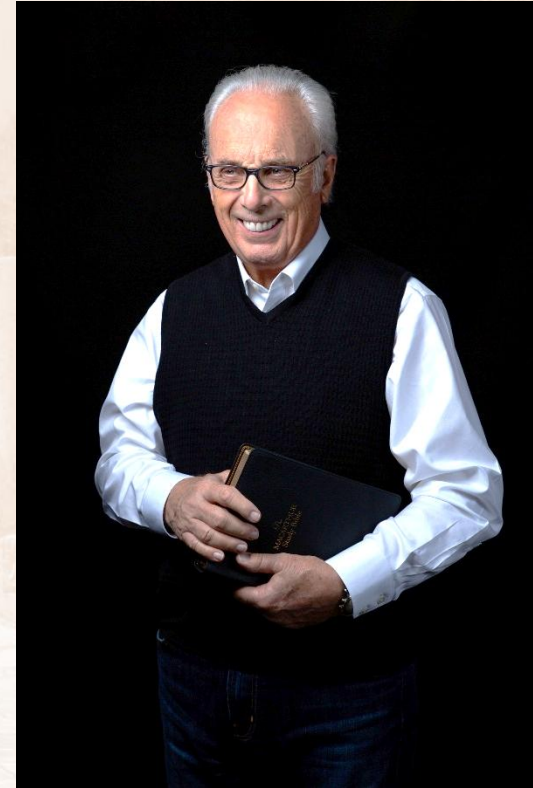
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Version 1

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# Tribute to John MacArthur (1939–2024): A Faithful Servant of Christ

- Pastor of Grace Community Church (1969–2024), shepherding the same congregation for over 55 years with steadfast biblical preaching.
- Voice of Grace to You, his daily radio ministry for 48 years, which began in 1977 and continues to reach millions around the world.
- Prolific Author of Over 150 Works, including The Gospel According to Jesus, Ashamed of the Gospel, and Slave.
- Creator of the MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series, a 33-volume exposition of the entire New Testament used by pastors and teachers worldwide.
- General Editor of The MacArthur Study Bible, a best-selling resource acclaimed for its theological depth and clarity.
- Founder and Chancellor Emeritus of The Master's Seminary and The Master's University, institutions training generations of pastors and Christian leaders. Over 3000 in enrollment.
- Defender of Biblical Inerrancy and Sound Doctrine, recognized for his unwavering commitment to the authority of Scripture.
- Legacy of Faithful Expository Preaching, modeling verse-by-verse teaching that has helped shape evangelical pulpits for over five decades.



# A Special Memorial to John MacArthur from Alistair Begg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5is5SOZAaLQ&t=0s>





# ESV Commentary Outline

## IV. From Death to Life ([2:1–10](#))

A. Dead in Trespasses and Sins ([2:1–3](#))

B. Made Alive with Christ ([2:4–7](#))

C. By Grace for Good Works ([2:8–10](#))

## V. From Strangers to Members ([2:11–22](#))

A. Remember Your Past Situation ([2:11–13](#))

1. Far from Christ ([2:11–12](#))

2. But Now Brought Near ([2:13](#))

B. Remember that Christ Is Your Peace ([2:14–18](#))

1. Christ Has Made Jews and Gentiles One ([2:14a](#))

2. Christ Has Broken Down the Dividing Wall ([2:14b](#))

3. Christ Has Abolished the Law ([2:15–16](#))

a. So That He Might Create One New Man ([2:15](#))

b. So That He Might Reconcile Us Both to God ([2:16](#))

4. Christ Preached Peace to Jews and Gentiles ([2:17–18](#))

C. Remember Your New Status in Christ ([2:19–22](#))

1. As Citizens in God's Kingdom ([2:19a](#))

2. As Members of God's Household ([2:19b](#))

3. As Part of God's Holy Temple ([2:20–22](#))

# A Complete Overview of the Lesson

## ESV Commentary Outline

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- IV. From Death to Life ([2:1–10](#))
    - A. Dead in Trespasses and Sins ([2:1–3](#))
    - B. Made Alive with Christ ([2:4–7](#))

# JM Outline (This week: Ephesians 2:1-7)

## Coming Alive in Christ ([2:1-10](#))

SALVATION IS FROM SIN ([2:1-3](#))

SALVATION IS BY LOVE ([2:4](#))

SALVATION IS INTO LIFE ([2:5](#))

SALVATION IS WITH A PURPOSE ([2:6-7](#))

SALVATION IS THROUGH FAITH ([2:8-9](#))

SALVATION IS UNTO GOOD WORKS ([2:10](#))

## The Unity of the Body ([2:11-22](#))

ALIENATION APART FROM CHRIST ([2:11-12](#))

SOCIAL ALIENATION ([2:11](#))

SPIRITUAL ALIENATION ([2:12](#))

UNITY IN CHRIST ([2:13-18](#))

PEACE WITH GOD AND WITH HIS PEOPLE ([2:14-17](#))

ACCESS TO GOD ([2:18](#))

CLOSING SUMMARY ([2:19-22](#))

UNITED IN GOD'S KINGDOM ([2:19a](#))

UNITED IN GOD'S FAMILY ([2:19b](#))

UNITED IN GOD'S TEMPLE ([2:20-22](#))

## Today's Verses Ephesians 2:1-7

**READER #1:**  
Ephesians 2:1-3

<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.

**READER #2:**  
Ephesians 2:4

<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,

**READER #3:**  
Ephesians 2:5

<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

**READER #4:**  
Ephesians 2:6-7

<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.



# Coming Alive in Christ ([2:1-10](#))

## SALVATION IS FROM SIN ([2:1](#))

<sup>1</sup> And you **were dead** in the **trespasses and sins**

- **Spiritually Dead**: “**Dead**” describes the sinner’s natural condition of total spiritual separation from God.
  - This is not due to individual acts alone, but to an inherited state of alienation (original sin), which persists until regeneration by the Holy Spirit brings new life.
  - “Dead” describes the sinner’s natural condition of total spiritual separation from God where we are incapable of responding to Him without divine intervention.
  - “The death Paul speaks of is not merely metaphorical. It refers to a real spiritual state in which the sinner is unable to respond to God’s truth.” — MacArthur Study Bible
- **Trespasses and Sins**: The pattern of rebellion.
  - Encompasses not only wrongful actions, but the entire sphere of life for the unregenerate.
  - Rebellion against God.
  - A life shaped by the values of a fallen world.
  - Under the influence and rule of Satan.



## Coming Alive in Christ ([2:1-10](#))

### SALVATION IS FROM SIN ([2:2](#))

<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**—

- **Course of This World (Kosmos):** Not the natural world, but the fallen world-system of values and priorities that rejects God. This shared mindset of unbelief shapes society's beliefs and behaviors. (cf. 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4)
- **Prince of the Power of the Air:** Though ultimately under God's sovereignty, Satan is the delegated (temporarily permitted) "ruler" over this Kosmos. (cf. John 12:31; 14:30)
- **The Spirit at Work:** This "spirit" is Satan plus his demon host. They energize and guide the unbeliever's rebellion, turning cosmic influence into personal bondage. (cf. Eph. 6:12; 2 Cor. 4:4)
- **Sons of Disobedience:** Unbelievers are called "sons" because they share Satan's nature of willful defiance. Their obedience to sin makes them natural subjects of the devil's realm (sharing the rebellious nature of the devil himself). (cf. John 8:44; Rom. 6:16)
- **READ:** [Colossians 1:13](#)
- **QUESTION:** How does knowing you were once 'dead in sin' but are now alive in Christ change the way you live today?

## Coming Alive in Christ ([2:1-10](#))

### SALVATION IS FROM SIN ([2:3](#)) CONTINUED

<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**.

**Before we examine v.3 in detail, let's look at a general breakdown (key thoughts)**

- Total depravity (mind, body, nature)
  - “**carrying out the desires of the body and the mind.**”
- Universality of guilt (no one exempt)
  - Note: The transition from ‘you’ to ‘we’ to ‘us’... makes clear that all Christians, Jew and Gentile alike, share the same predicament and the same deliverance.” (ESVEC, Eph. 2:1–7)
- God’s righteous wrath (not impulsive, but just)
  - **God’s wrath is a settled opposition to evil, not an emotional outburst**
- **QUESTION:** How often do you think of the wrath of God?
- Need for divine intervention (transition to verse 4)

## Coming Alive in Christ ([2:1-10](#))

### SALVATION IS FROM SIN ([2:3](#)) CONTINUED

<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**.

- **We all once lived:** No one is exempt (universal guilt). Every believer was once part of fallen humanity, living under the power of sin.
- **Passions of the Flesh:** Strong cravings for anything self-centered or contrary to God's will. This includes not only physical but moral and spiritual rebellion.
- **Children of Wrath:** By nature (from birth), not by behavior alone, we were under God's just and holy judgment. Wrath is not impulsive anger, but God's settled opposition to sin.
- **Like the Rest of Mankind:** Believers were not naturally better. We were just as lost, guilty, and deserving of condemnation as everyone else until God intervened.
- **QUESTION:** What happens to our gratitude and humility when we truly believe we were once "children of wrath"?



## Coming Alive in Christ (2:1-10)

### SALVATION IS BY LOVE (2:4)

<sup>4</sup> **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,

- **But God**: These two words mark the most profound turning point in human history and personal salvation. God acted on our behalf when we were helpless, condemned, and dead.
  - “The two words “**but God**” show where the initiative was in providing the power of salvation.” -JM
- **Rich in Mercy**: God’s mercy is not thin or limited, it is abundant and overflowing. Though we deserved His wrath (v.3), He withheld judgment and moved toward us with compassion.
  - “God’s mercy is rich, overabounding, without measure... God is intrinsically kind, merciful...” -JM
- Because of His **Great Love**: The driving motive behind salvation is not our worthiness but God’s immense, deliberate, undeserved, and sovereign love
  - “Salvation... is by the motivation and power of God’s great love... man’s rebellion is against His love.” -JM
- **QUESTION**: If “**but God**” is the turning point of your story, what’s the best way we should understand that truth today?

# Coming Alive in Christ ([2:1-10](#))

## SALVATION IS BY LOVE ([2:4](#)) CONTINUED

<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love **with which he loved us**,

- **With Which He Loved Us:** This is not generic love for humanity. It is specific, saving love toward *us* (those chosen in Christ ([Eph. 1:4–5](#)), both Jew and Gentile believers).
  - Emphasizes that God reaches out to vile, rebellious people and offers them forgiveness, making it clear this is saving, covenantal love, not mere general benevolence.
  - God... not only loved enough to forgive but also enough to die...
  - Compassionate love for those who do not deserve it makes salvation possible (**for such a worm as I**).
- **DICUSSION:** How does human-to-human reconciliation work?
- **DICUSSION:** How does **God-to-man** reconciliation work?
  - 🤔 Just as only the one offended can offer forgiveness, only God (whom we have deeply offended) could make reconciliation possible, through the death of His Son.

## Coming Alive in Christ ([2:1-10](#))

### SALVATION IS INTO LIFE ([2:5](#))

<sup>5</sup> even when we **were dead** in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved—

- **Were Dead:** Before Christ, we were separated from God by our sin—unable to know or follow Him on our own. Only a life-giving intervention could change that.
- **Made Us Alive:** God's power gave us new spiritual life in one decisive moment (at regeneration). He transformed our hearts so we could truly know Him and grow in faith.
- **Together with Christ:** Our new life is union with Christ's death and resurrection. Jew and Gentile alike are linked in one body ([Rom. 6:5](#); [Eph. 2:11–13](#)), sharing His risen life as the basis for everything we are.
- **By Grace:** This resurrection life is entirely a gift of unmerited favor—"by grace." There's no human merit or effort in the origin of our new life, only God's sovereign kindness.
- **Sustained in Newness of Life:** The very power that raised Christ continues to energize our daily walk ([Rom. 6:4](#); [Gal. 2:20](#)). Now "alive together with Christ," we can seek heavenly realities ([Col. 3:2](#)) and live in a way that pleases God.



## Coming Alive in Christ ([2:1-10](#))

### SALVATION IS WITH A PURPOSE ([2:6](#))

<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

- **Seated Us:** Though still on earth physically, God has already positioned us with Christ in heaven.
  - This is a completed spiritual reality (aorist tense - completed action in Koine Greek).
  - Our identity, authority, and future are now rooted in Christ's exaltation (cf. Col. 3:1; MacArthur, Lloyd-Jones).
- **In the Heavenly Places:** We now belong to the spiritual realm where God reigns—**not** the realm of sin and Satan. This is the sphere of our blessings, prayers, fellowship, and commands ([Eph. 1:3](#)). Our citizenship is no longer earthly ([Phil. 3:20](#)).
- **In Christ Jesus:** Our union with Christ means all we have—life, position, blessings, inheritance—comes through Him. He is not only the reason but the realm in which all spiritual blessings flow.
  - “We are what we are only in Him”- James Boice.
- **Comments?**

<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.

- **In the Coming Ages:** God's purpose extends beyond time. "Ages to come" refers to eternity, where the redeemed will forever be living displays of His grace.
  - Salvation doesn't end at conversion; it initiates endless blessing (MacArthur, Sproul).
- **Immeasurable Riches of His Grace:** God saved us not only to bless us, **but to eternally glorify Himself through His grace toward us.**
  - For all eternity, our lives will testify to His limitless mercy and kindness.
  - We are trophies of His grace—witnesses to His character forever.
  - **READ:** [Eph. 1:6](#); [Rev. 7:10–11](#)
- **QUESTION:** What does it mean to be a "trophy of grace" in the coming ages and how should that fuel our worship now?

## Some Practical Applications

- **Rest in Your Identity in Christ:** You were once dead in sin—but now you are alive, raised, and seated with Christ. Your status before God is secure, not because of your merit, but because of His mercy. (cf. Eph. 2:6; Col. 3:1–3)
- **Walk in Newness of Life:** God didn't just forgive you—He gave you new life. Live empowered by resurrection grace, turning from old desires and walking in obedience and hope. (cf. Rom. 6:4; Gal. 2:20)
- **Showcase God's Grace:** You are a trophy of grace—a living testimony to God's mercy and love. Let your life reflect His kindness through gratitude, worship, and gospel-shaped relationships. (cf. Eph. 2:7; Matt. 5:16; Titus 2:10)



## THE BIBLE: SCRIPTURE, LANDS, AND HISTORY

by Paul Szydowski

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### Study Lessons: Ephesians

First Baptist Brandon FL, Room A-205 9AM

by Paul Szydowski and Scott Cooley

#### Class Outlines Below

[Ephesians Study Outline Page 1\\_rev4.pdf](#)

[Ephesians Study Outline Page 2\\_rev4.pdf](#)

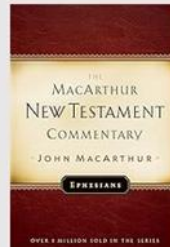
#### PDFs of Lessons Below

(PowerPoint Files Available Upon Request)

[L01A Ephesians Ch1v1-3 To His Glory and Our Good r2.pdf](#)

[L01B Ephesians Ch1v4-6 To His Glory and Our Good r2.pdf](#)

#### Resources Used



Website  
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