03

Made alive in Christ

Ephesians 2:1-10

Ruler our condition without Christ 2:1-3
Life our salvation in Christ 2:4-7
Purpose our walk with Christ 2:8-10

Transitioning from Paul's song of praise, the epistle focuses now on the church: individuals as new creations in Christ (2:1-10), who together are made one new humanity in Christ (2:11-21).

Spiritual Landscape of Ephesus

Greco-Roman Occult

Plurality of gods: multiple gods to choose to appease/manipulate
Cult of Artemis: massive temple to Artemis (*great mother goddess*)
Religion not faith: perform to earn blessing and boasting
Superstitious magic: not about love of deities, but rituals for self

Ruler
Life
Purpose

Ephesians 2:1-3 NIV // **our condition without Christ**

As for you, **you were dead** in your **transgressions** and **sins**, 2 in which **you used** to live when you **followed** the ways of **this world** and of **the ruler of the kingdom of the air,** the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of **our flesh** and **following** its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, **we were** by nature deserving of wrath.

Spiritually dead separated from God and eternal blessings

In transgression and sin the cause and condition of death

Ruled by enemies of our soul the world, the flesh, the devil

Under the rule of the sin we live in:

"(1) **deceptive ideas** (the devil) about who we are and what we need, and these lies (2) play to our **disordered desires** (the flesh), which are (3) **normalized** by society around us (the world)."

John Mark Comer, *Live No Lies*

Ruler
Life
Purpose

Ephesians 2:1-3 NIV // our condition without Christ

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God's Wrath - opposition to and righteous judgement of evil

Eternal: eternal separation from God
Eschatological: future judgement of evil
Cataclysmic: wars, disasters, destruction
Consequential: natural results of destructive choices
Abandonment: giving over to disordered desires

2:4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy…

The focus in this beautiful letter is God and the good news of Jesus making all things new. The Triune God is the subject and we are the object of his kindness, love, power, mercy, and grace.

Ruler
Life
Purpose

Ephesians 2:5-7 NIV // **our salvation in Christ**

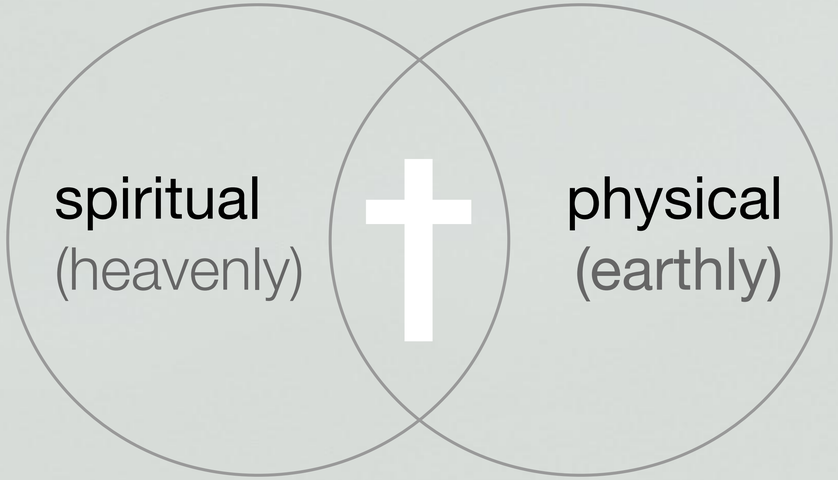
made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is **by grace you have been saved.**
6 And God **raised us up with Christ** and **seated us with him** in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of **his grace**, expressed in **his kindness** to us **in Christ** Jesus.

God made us alive new life and fellowship with God

God raised us new power and quality of life in Christ

God seated us new position and citizenship to partner with God

Jesus is making all things new.



Ruler
Life
Purpose

Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV // **our walk with Christ**

For it is **by grace** you have been **saved**, **through faith**—
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not
by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are **God's
handiwork, created in Christ Jesus** to **do good works**,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ruler from the reign of sin to Christ
Life from spiritual death to eternal life
Purpose from disobedience to displaying God's grace

All of this, by grace through faith in Christ, because of God's love. A free unmerited gift for broken people in a broken world to delight in and dwell with God, day by day for eternity.

In Christ, you are gifted new life with God, saved from sin and for him.

So let us…

Receive Jesus' invitation to new life

Rejoice in God's kindness, love, and mercy for you

Seize opportunities to walk and work with God