

# We Are Alive

*"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,<sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.<sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.<sup>10</sup> For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.."*  
Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV)

Paul's argument:

1. In sin, we are controlled by **Satan**.
2. In sin, we walk according to the curse of this **world**.
3. Walking according to the curse of this world, we become children of **wrath**.

A way to remember...

Mercy **pities**.

Grace **pardons**.

Who do we think we are?

We are **made alive** through Christ.

*"The purpose of God's action in saving us is to demonstrate in the coming ages how rich his grace is; in intervening for us, God shows his own character. By its very nature the gospel is a revelation. The revelation of God's character will continue throughout eternity, and the primary evidence of his grace and kindness are the people who have received eternal life in Christ Jesus. God's saving work shows who he really is and results in worship, both now and throughout eternity."* Klyne Snodgrass

**Faith...**

**Faith is relational.**

**Faith is a covenant word.**

**Who do we think we are?**

**We are reflectors of the life of Jesus.**

**Which life will define you?**

**A life controlled by God's grace or a life controlled by sin?**

**The former leads to the worship of God; the latter leads to the wrath of God.**

**Small Group Questions**

**Read Ephesians 2:1-10**

1. **What do you believe about Satan, demons and evil spirits? Do you fear them?**
2. **Can you tell an experience you have had that could illustrate mercy and/or grace?**
3. **Which life (controlled by God's grace or sin) do you want to define you? How would others define your life? Why?**
4. **What steps can you take to have your reflection look more like Jesus?**
5. **Read Psalm 51. How do you relate to this psalm?**