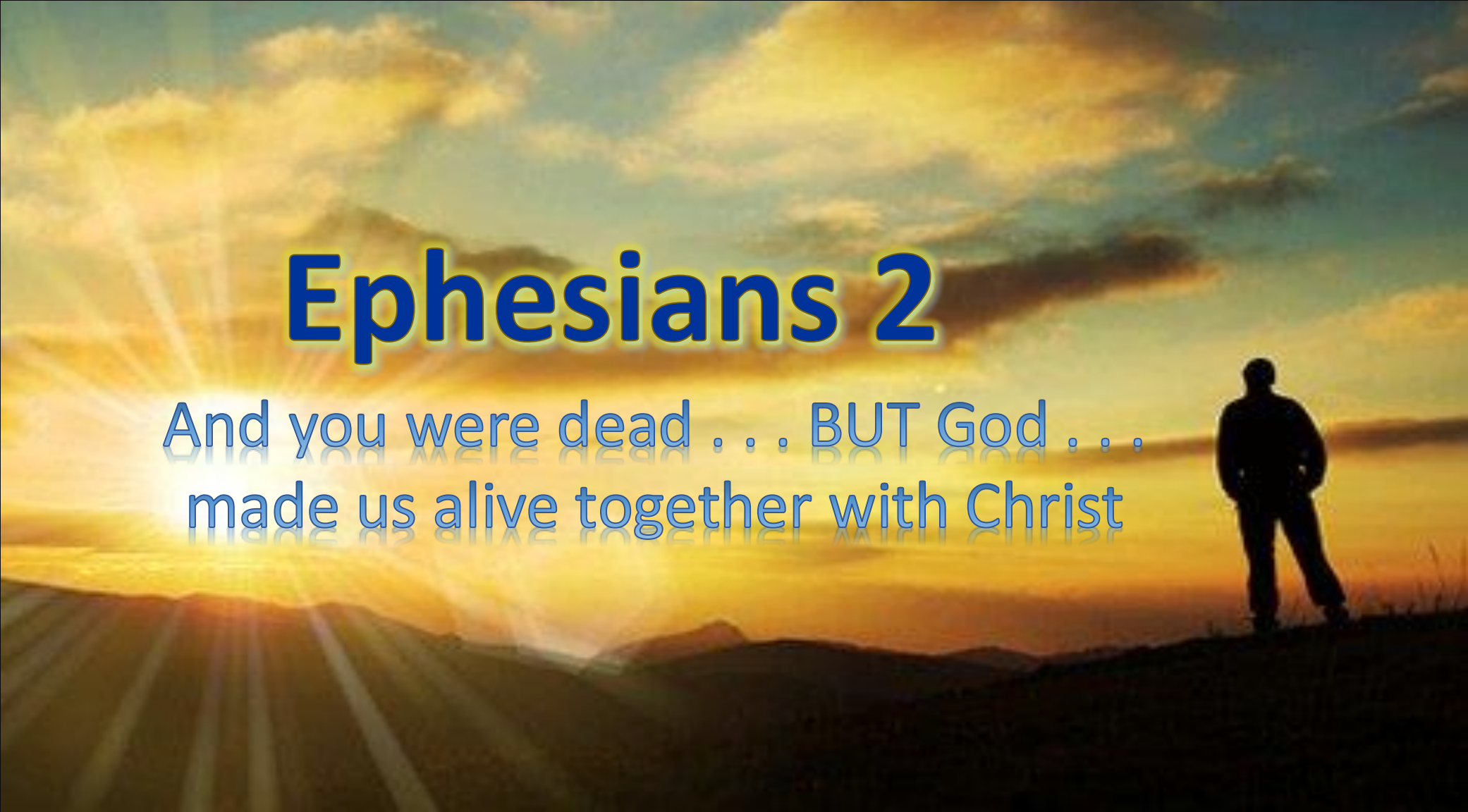




Ephesians 2

And you were dead . . . BUT God . . .
made us alive together with Christ

Why do we sing worship songs?

dead . . . alive

2 *And* you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins ² 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— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

⁴ *But God*, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us **alive** together with Christ—by grace you have been saved . . .

Ephesians 2:1–5 (ESV)

For we are His workmanship . . .

⁶ and [God] raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

¹⁰ ***For we are His workmanship***, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:6–10 (ESV)

God's cosmic plan (so far)

- Even those chosen, predestined, and sealed by God were still spiritually dead in sin and in need of redemption (Ephesians 1:4–14; 2:1–3).
- **But God**, moved by His great love and rich mercy, acted decisively through Christ on their behalf (Ephesians 2:4–5).
- The same immeasurable power that raised Christ from the dead also makes believers spiritually alive in Him (Ephesians 1:19–20; 2:5–6).

God's cosmic plan (so far)

- God's cosmic plan was established before creation and included every element necessary to provide salvation by grace through faith (Ephesians 1:4–11; 2:8–9).
- Man's disobedience did not surprise or disrupt God's plan; His redemptive purpose was already in place (Ephesians 1:4–10; Romans 8:28–29).
- Believers are not only saved and raised with Christ but also created in Him for good works prepared beforehand (Ephesians 2:6, 10).

Paradigm Shift

paradigm shift: fundamental changes in underlying assumptions about what we thought was true that significantly alter how we understand and respond to what appears to be true.

Key elements:

- **Upsetting established assumptions** (e.g., new insights)
- **Shifts in patterns of thinking** (e.g., broader context)
- **Reevaluation of guiding principles** (e.g., reconsidering purpose)
- **Challenge “standard practice”** (e.g., definition of insanity)

Totally DISRUPTIVE !!

Paul's message Paradigm shift

²*And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins . . .*

⁸ ***For** by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Saved *from* what?

¹⁰ ***For we are His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

Saved *for* what?

United in Christ

Unity: the last part of God's cosmic plan for man.

¹¹ **Therefore** remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

¹³ **But now in Christ Jesus** you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

Ephesians 2:11–15 (ESV)

United in Christ

¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

²² In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:16–22 (ESV)

Key points of 11 thru 22

- Paul reminds them of their former status: alienated, without hope (2:11–12).
- **“But now in Christ Jesus.”** Their thinking that was “far off” **was now** “brought near” solely by the blood of Christ (2:13).
- Christ broke down the dividing wall to reduce hostility, abolished the old basis of separation, and created one new humanity in Himself (2:14–15).
- Both groups, Jews and Gentiles, were reconciled to God on equal footing through the cross of Christ. The cross wiped away their sin and destroyed the hostility between them (2:16–17).

Summary of 11 thru 22

- Through Christ, all believers have equal access to the Father by one Spirit. (2:18).
- Believers are no longer strangers or outsiders. Their identity is in Christ. They are fellow citizens with the saints and full members of God's household (2:19).
- The church is meant to be a visible testimony that Christ has created a new people; His church. The church is united under Him and built on Him who is the cornerstone. (2:20–21).
- In Christ all the saints are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (2:22).

The End of Chapter 2 (so far)

How does being “saved by grace through faith” *and* “being His workmanship” affect your view of what being a Christian really means?

Would you share this “feature” of Paul’s message with a new believer?
Why? Why not?

Where have you noticed God’s plan for unity amongst believers ***not*** being observed?