

Ephesians 2:1–3 (NIV)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 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. 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.

Ephesians 2:4-7 (NIV)

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 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.

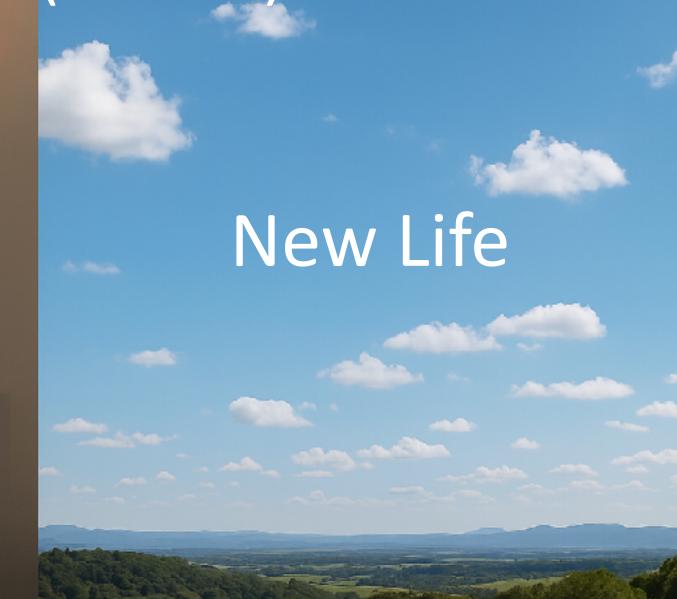
Breathing the Wrong Air

• "As for you, you were <u>dead</u> in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you <u>followed</u> the <u>ways of this world</u> and of the ruler of the <u>kingdom of the air</u> (Ephesians 2:1–2)

• John Stott: "We weren't drowning—we were corpses at the bottom of the ocean. God didn't just toss us a life-jacket, He raised us from the dead."

Our Past Condition (vv. 1–3)

- Dead in Sin
- Following the Wrong
 Ruler Kingdom of Air
- Enslaved to the Flesh craving polluted air



"...But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short. Then the dragon was enraged...and went off to wage war against...those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus."

(Revelation 12:12,17)

- Consumerism & Materialism 1 John 2:16
- Political Idolatry John 18:36
- Digital Distraction James 1:19–20, 26
- Normalization of Sin James 1:21
- Division in the Church Colossians 3:12–13

• Consumerism & Materialism – 1 John 2:16

 "For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life comes not from the Father but from the world." (1 John 2:16)

Political Idolatry – John 18:36

Breathing Wrong Air \rightarrow Modern Parallels

• "Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." John 18:36

• Digital Distraction – James 1:19–20, 26

- "...Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." (James 1:19-20)
- "Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless." (James 1:26)

Normalization of Sin – James 1:21

- "Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you."
- (James 1:21)

Breathing Wrong Air \rightarrow Modern Parallels

• Divisions in the Church – Colossian 3:12-13

Breathing Wrong Air \rightarrow Modern Parallels

• "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Colossian 3:12-13)

REFLECTION:

Which 'Air' Pollutant has been a challenge for you?

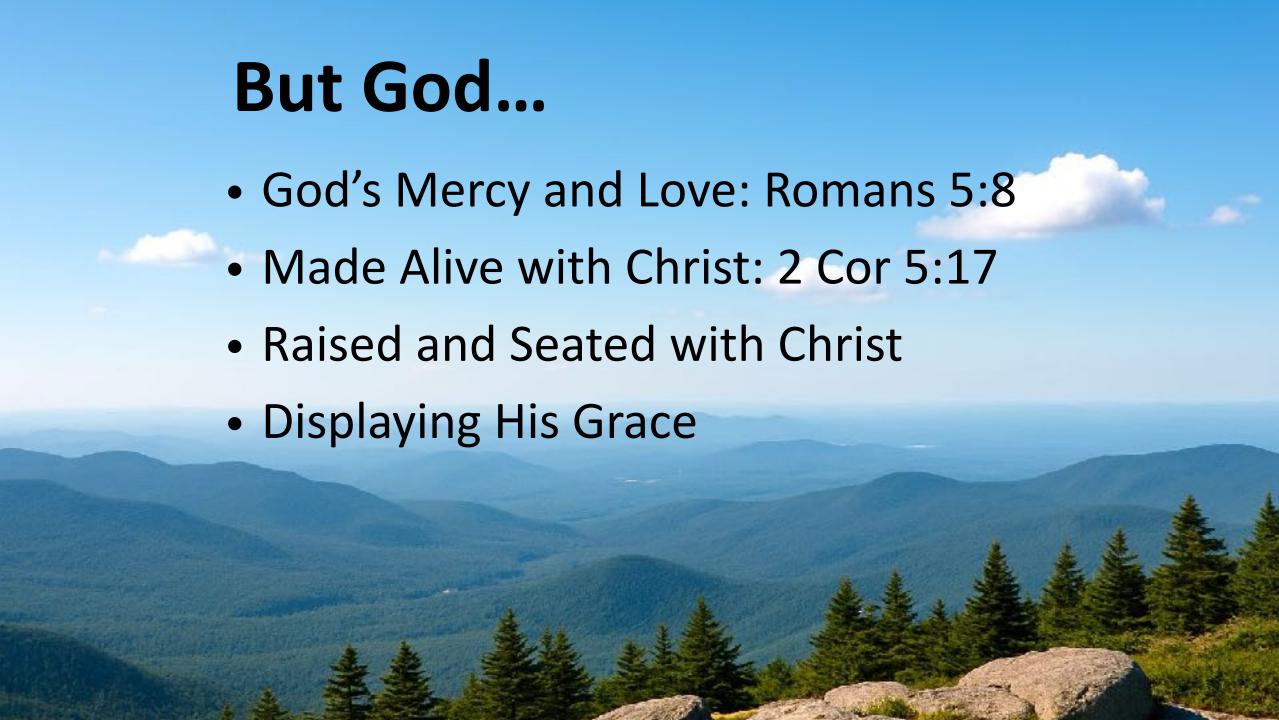
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Living in the New Air

'But God...'

 "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 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."

• (Ephesians 2:6-7)





Living in the New PURE Air

- P Prayer & Worship Romans 12:1
- **U** Unity in Community Col 3:12-13
- R Resist Consumerism with Simplicity Ph 4
- E Examine Everything 1 Jn 4:1 (SPLO-Down)

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

Which Air Are You Breathing?