

REVIVE CHURCH- THE BELIEVERS AUTHORITY

EPHESIANS SERIES #7

In **Ephesians 2:1-10**-Paul describes the profound partnership into which God has invited us by His grace.

1And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ emphasizes both what you have been saved from and what you have been saved into.

Eph. 2:1-2-And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.

Paul emphasized that all believers were in a sorry state before God invaded our lives through grace. He looks back to what we were. We were dead!

- *The Scripture makes us aware of the trespasses and sins that bound every Christian before coming to Christ as well as the current state of humanity that does not believe in Jesus.*
- **The pervading influence of evil has impacted us all.**
- 1. The Scriptures emphasize that we are all born into sin which gives us a sin nature. **Romans 3:23** (NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **Eph. 2:3** we were by nature children of wrath
- 2. We have all willingly chose sin and participated with evil. **This means we have an impure heart, motives and conscience (inner man) as well as impure hands (outer man).**
- 3. **The power of evil enslaves humanity to sin yet God makes such people with such evil influences and tendencies alive in Jesus Christ.**
- **The words trespasses and sins cover the spectrum of mans depravity.** **Trespasses highlights the general transgressions of specific commands of God and the violation of the conscience. The word sins illustrates that we have missed the mark, we have fallen short of what God expects.**
- Paul uses **the word walked** to describe the unbeliever's manner of life. *In other words, sins and trespasses were not a one-time thing but the unbeliever walks in these ways continually.* **Paul often uses the idea of walking to describe the Christians experience as well. Both the sinners and the redeemed walk spring from deep rooted behavior patterns that bear a distinct fruit .**

The prince of the power of the air is Satan. This is one of his titles as he exercises his authority. **2 Corinthians 4:4** refers to Satan as the god of this age who has blinded the minds of unbelievers.

Someone who has not received by grace the finished work of Jesus Christ is under the domination of the adversary. *This does not mean that every unbeliever is possessed or worships Satan intentionally, but we must recognize if Jesus is not our Lord then Satan is.* **Before Jesus Christ we were blinded, and our entire thought system and pattern of life was motivated and manipulated by Satan.**

- **People are not free. They are in bondage and only Jesus has the power to set one free. When we look around in the area which we live, most are in bondage.** *The stats just came out this week, March 2024. Seattle is the least religious city in the US Almost two-thirds of people living in the Emerald City identify as non-religious. The exact percentage of those who are non-religious is 63.8%, making up 1.98 million adults out of the 3.1 million residents.*
- **Satan is a master puppeteer, pulling the strings of the soul.** Because the strings are not seen people assume they are just living free and doing what they want, not realizing you are actually doing what Satan wants and his ultimate desire is to steal, kill and destroy us.
- Those who do not belong to Christ are called sons of disobedience. **If God is not your Father, then Satan is.**

Eph. 2:3-Among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

We can learn something quite beautiful from Paul. He carefully avoids any we versus they comparisons. He counts himself along with all his fellow Jewish believers to be among those who were bound in trespasses and sins. We all have the exact same background regardless of what we have done. *We have all conducted ourselves in the lusts of the flesh. We were all subject to judgment, hell and the wrath of God apart from the grace of Jesus Christ.* This is a big part of our witness and going low as we share the love of Jesus with those around us. **I was lost and He found me and Jesus will do the same for you.**

Eph. 2:4-5 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

The first two words of verse 4 are beautiful to encounter after the difficult truth that precedes. But God!!! God has not left sinners to wallow in the shame, slavery and desperation of a child of wrath. God enters into the mess in order to rescue us from perishing, motivated by His love for us. His grace extends to anyone who will call upon His name. **God is rich in mercy and His love for us is not hindered by our sinfulness. While we were in the midst of evil, dead in trespasses He loves us.** *We could do nothing to earn His love and mercy, we cannot clean ourselves up enough to be accepted. Salvation is a gift of His grace and grace alone. By grace we have been saved.*

Grace can be defined as favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it. It is one of the key attributes of God. When Moses asked God to show him His glory this is the revelation he received.

Exodus 34:6-6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,

The grace of God is always free and undeserved but it must not be taken for granted. Grace is only enjoyed within the covenant. God gives the gift, and it is received through repentance and faith. The grace of God was revealed and given in the person and the work of Jesus Christ. Jesus was not only the beneficiary of God's grace, He was the very embodiment bringing it to humans for salvation by His death and resurrection. The only way of salvation for anyone is through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 15:11). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29) and He applies the grace of God to humans for their salvation. Salvation is not something that can be earned it can only be received as a gift. His grace must be accompanied by our faith in Him, the same grace that saves us from sin is the grace that empowers us for righteousness!

Eph. 2:6-7 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Paul uses three actions that the grace of God has accomplished in the believers life.

1. He raised us
2. He seated us together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus
3. He shows the exceeding riches of His grace and kindness toward us

He has elevated us to be seated with Jesus Christ at the right hand of the Father. He has! This is not something that will come someday but something that has already occurred for the believer. This is to be our present daily experience if we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. We are purposed to function from this position.

1. We have been raised up to reign with Jesus in the invisible realm
2. **We have been given the high ground against the adversary**
3. We can look down on those things that come against us because we have been lifted up by His grace and power.
4. We are seated with Jesus and all things are under His feet, which means all things are under our feet.
5. This is our position, but we must grab hold by faith if it is going to be our experience.

In the ages to come God is going to show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. What a promise this is for the believer both now and in the next age. **Whatever glories of Christ kingdom are experienced and enjoyed in this age it is clear that there is much that will be unrealized until the age to come.** Here we are given the unimaginable blessings that are reserved for the believer prepared by the Father.

*8*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast

This is definitely a well know verse but we don't want to let its familiarity to keep us from growing in the revelation of its promise. **This is an accomplished event "have been" with continuing results. This is something that God has done but man must apply his faith in the finished work. Paul is careful to exclude**

human effort, the work is totally of God, all the believer does is respond by exercising their faith in Jesus Christ. There is no grounds for boasting of any kind, all one can do is receive.

Focus on workmanship next Sunday

Home group questions

1. The Gospel of Jesus Christ emphasizes both what you have been saved from and what you have been saved into. Why are both important?
2. Take some time to offer God thankfulness through testimony and prayer.
3. Paul careful avoid any we verses they comparisons. Why is it so important that we don't elevate ourselves above others but realize we all had the same starting point. *We have all conducted ourselves in the lusts of the flesh. We were all subject to judgment, hell and the wrath of God apart from the grace of Jesus Christ.*
4. But God! Discuss the power of those words and the transition in Eph.2:4. What does God's grace mean for you? The same grace that saves you also empowers you to live in Jesus righteousness.
5. Discuss what it means for believers that right now we are seated with Christ in heavenly places? How would our lives look different if we lived in this spiritual reality?