

Sermon 7: But God Who is Rich in Mercy: Ephesians 2:1-7

Text: Ephesians 2:1-7 "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus..."

Summary: We should never forget who we were before we were born again and what God did for us to give us this salvation.

Proposition: God wants us to rejoice in the greatness of our salvation.

Interrogative: How can we do this?

Truth 1: There are only two potential positions: 2:1 "You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins..."

- **Two important statements:**
 - **We have been made alive: 2:1** "You hath he quickened
 - **We once were dead: 2:1** "Who were dead in trespasses and sins..."
- **Stated in other places:**
 - **In Adam or in Christ: 1 Corinthians 15:21-22** "By man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive..."
 - **Dead or alive: John 5:24** "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life..."
 - **Condemned or not condemned: Romans 8:1** "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus..."
 - **Natural man or a new creation: 2 Corinthians 5:17** "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new..."

Truth 2: We were by nature dead to God: 2:2-3 "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of

disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others..."

- **This was a positional spiritual reality: 2:1** "Who were dead in trespasses and sins..."
- **My life bore all the marks of my spiritual deadness: 2:2-3** "in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind..."
 - **The consistent patterns of our lives were distinctly ungodly: 2:2** "Walked according to the course of this world...had our conversations..."
 - **This pattern could be traced back to the influence of Satan and this world's system: 2:2** "According to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience..."
 - **We were slaves to our fallen appetites and ego: 2:3** "In the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind..."
 - Fleshly passions
 - Greed
 - Power
 - Influence
 - Prestige
- **This is the universal, natural human condition: 2:3** "Were by nature the children of wrath, even as others..."

Truth 3: We are now alive to Him: 2:5 "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ..."

- **This is our new positional spiritual reality: 2:1** "You hath he quickened..."
- **Our lives are now united to Him: 2:6** "Hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus..."
- **We are living with the anticipation of a rich eternal inheritance: 2:7** "That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus..."
 - **God is infinite**
 - **We are finite**
 - **Even in eternity, we will still be finite.**
 - **Throughout all eternity we will continue to grow in our knowledge of God's greatness.**

Truth 4: God's grace made all the difference: 2:4 "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us..."

- **Four powerful statements:**
 - **God did not leave us to our own devices: 2:4** "But God..."
 - **He had compassion for us in our spiritual deadness:** "Who is rich in mercy..."
 - **He loved us though we were unlovely: 2:4** "For his great love wherewith he loved us..."
 - **This salvation is entirely of His grace: 2:5** "By grace ye are saved..."
- **This change of position takes place one way:**
 - **You must be born again: John 3:3** "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God..."
 - **This birth comes by the work of God through the word:**
 - **Romans 10:14-17** "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things...So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God..."
 - **James 1:18** "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures..."
 - **2 Corinthians 4:6** "God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ..."
 - **1 Peter 1:23** "Born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God..."
 - **Those who receive Him by faith alone are born again:**
 - **John 5:24** "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life..."
 - **John 1:12-13** "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God..."

Application:

- **To the unbeliever:**
 - Do not accept the lie you don't need God's salvation.
 - Do not accept the lie you are beyond God's salvation.

- Do you feel the weight of your sin and inability to come to God?
- Are you gripped by the seriousness of God's justice?
- Can you see the mercy and grace of God extended to you in the gospel?
- That is a direct result of God's gracious call to repent and believe in the gospel.
- Turn to Him with a humbled heart, confess your sin, look to Christ in faith and ask Him to save you from your sins.
- **Rest in this promise:**
 - **Romans 10:10** "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation..."
 - **John 6:37** "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out..."
- **To the believer:**
 - Don't ever forget where you were but don't linger there too long.
 - Realize who you are in Christ and reckon it to be true.
 - Marvel in God's grace of God.
 - Marvel at His love.
 - Thank Him for what He has saved you from.
 - Thank Him for what he has saved you to.
 - Live like the person you are this week.