

## Chapter 2

Ephesians 2:1-7

Title: Our Past, Present, and Future (Amazing)

### Overview/Outline of the Book of Ephesians

We continue on our great adventure as we begin this study through the Book of Ephesians, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, and sometimes word-by-word. This Book takes us into breathtaking views of the greatest Christian doctrines and promises, and why it has been heralded the Swiss Alps of the New Testament.

The Book of Ephesians has a prebuilt outline to it:

- Doctrine (chapters 1-3)
- Duty (chapter 4-6)

Doctrine - is, “who is God”, “what has He done for us”, and “what does He think of us”.

Duty - is “what does He want us to do”, and “what can I ask of Him to do it (for He doesn’t ask us to do anything that He will not help us, empower us, to accomplish it”. Along with that will come, “what we need to be on guard of”.

\*\*\*\*We have to know who were re in Christ, the security of our position in Him, before we can walk victoriously, and battle spiritually. \*\*\*\*

Regarding that, Ephesians has a most interesting and wonderful order to it in verb tenses such as, seated, walking, and being steadfast.

- Chapter 2 – We are “Seated” with Christ in heaven
- Chapter 4 – We are called to “Walk” worthy of the calling
- Chapter 6 – We are called to “Stand” against the enemy and his ways.

*Ephesians 2:6–7 (NKJV)* <sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

*Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup> I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

*Ephesians 6:14 (NKJV)* <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Doctrine & Duty - This outline is nothing new to us, as every time we open this Bible here at CCAAC, we always ask these same 5 question. And..... apply what we learn, and what the Lord speaks to our heart as we study this treasure....

### Today’s Passage:

**Ephesians 2:1–7 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> 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, <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

### 3P’s of the Passage

#### Person

- Is made alive, they are no longer dead in sin.
- Has a new walk, and is set free.
- Is loved by God.

### Position

- Alive together with Christ.
- Raised up together with each other (meaning the other saints)
- Seated in Heavenly places in Christ,
- Saved by Grace

### Promise

- Saved by Grace (not our performance).
- Receives the riches of His Grace
- Receives the riches of his Mercy

### **Why it Matters to You**

Why does this passage matter to you? Why spend an hour of your time to hear this, to study this, to come here when you could be elsewhere? Because God, the Author of these words..... wants you to know your past has been washed away by His finished work on the cross! That your present is empowered to overcome..... by Him, because you are raised and seated with Him, raised to life. And, your future (which includes today and all eternity) He will spend it showing you His kindness and mercy..... now those are words that can change a life “today”, regardless who you are, how long you have known Him, or maybe still searching for answers of who He is, is He real, and does He want to have a personal relationship with you..... to which He answers you today that He does.

### **The Word of God in Our Hand Today**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

### **Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,**

### **Made Alive – But Some only Merely Exist**

*Made alive* - Some people merely exist because they don't know true life and living. It is found in one place, and one place only, in Christ.

### **Even Scholars Struggle / Simply No Trespassing Sign**

Verse one, even Bible scholars struggle and debate over what is the difference of sin and trespass and I don't think it's that much of a debate. Sin simply means to miss the mark, as in shooting an arrow at a bullseye target, and if you missed the bullseye, it would be said you sinned. God has a holy law, His commandments, and if you missed keeping one of them you sinned. Now regarding trespass, Genesis 3 gives us a clear indication of what a trespass is, as we know that sin means to miss the mark, but trespass adds another layer of identification into that. And what we see in Genesis three was there was a sign posted, if you would, outside that tree that says no trespassing. And yet Adam and Eve chose to disobey the sign that God had given them that says, "You shall not eat of this tree." And so what we know, a trespass is it is to disobey the word of God. It's not just disobeying and breaking the commandments and the law. It is the disobedience to the very word of God where a person says, "I see the sign, I know what the sign says, I know what it means,

but I'm choosing to jump the fence and break this boundary that God has put up where he said, 'No trespassing.'

*Genesis 2:15-17 (NKJV) <sup>15</sup> Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

### **Pastor John Duncan**

I'm reminded of one of the Bible teachers I had in Bible College. His name was John Dunkin. He was an old hippie from the 70s, got saved in the Jesus movement and even at 60 he was still just a cool dude, long hair, and the whole hippie look still going on. But let me tell you, what a Bible teacher. Amazing Bible teacher. Just what a man of God that he had, and I know I'm digressing, but his wife was just like him with their adventure of life and enjoying life and being saved. And tragically in her later years, she was stricken with a debilitating disease that left her immobile, but she didn't want to stop living in life. And I remember him telling the story that they would go surfing and he would lay her on the front of the surfboard and he would surf the board standing up and they would catch big waves and ride it out, and she would be screaming and laughing all the way, and the joy that they had as a husband and wife and just what a beautiful picture that is.

But again, as I was saying, what a great Bible teacher. And I remember him telling the story and it's applicable for us today in that when he was recently saved in the Jesus movement living on in California, and there was a bunch of them recently saved living out in California in a hippie house and they got jobs on this orange orchard ranch and their job was to pick the oranges. And the owner took them around and said to everybody, "Here, you pick these rows. Here's how you do this. You put them here and et cetera, et cetera." But then they came to this one orange tree that had a fence around it to which the owner said, "So pick all these oranges that you want and help yourself to as much as you want to eat while you're working, but do not touch these oranges inside this fence or pick them because we are doing a special test on genetic cross seeding and to see if we can get a better tasting orange. And therefore this is off limit. Do not touch."

So it wasn't long after you have a bunch of young hippie kids, when the owner's gone, they look at that tree and they said, "I wonder what that orange tastes like." So John said he jumped the fence, picked an orange, brought it back, opened it up, peeled it off and gave a piece to everybody and they were all eating it together. And then John stopped and he looked at them all and he goes, "Guys, we just did it again, didn't we?"

And I think you can see how applicable that is even when God says what is clearly do not touch, do not enter, hands off, do not jump the fence, no trespassing. There's something in our nature that says, "I'm going to," and that's what trespass means.

### **Spiritual Death / Must Be Born Again**

Verse one is spiritual death, which is separation from God. And then when there's a spiritual death plus the actual physical death, that's going to be the eternal death, and hence why Jesus said in John 3:3, "Unless a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." We must be born again out of this spiritual death and made alive as it's spoken here in this passage, and the gospel given to us that though we were dead in our trespasses and sin, those things have been washed away through the blood of Jesus and we have been made alive. That's what being born again is, to be born spiritually.

And if you do not know what that word means, to be born again, if you hear it and you think it's a fanatical statement, it was the statement made by Jesus himself in John 3:3. And if you don't know what born again means, then it probably means that you're not born again, and it's something that you need to look at and ask, why don't I know what born again means? Because you must be born again, Jesus said, to enter into the kingdom of God.

*John 3:3 (NKJV) <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

**Ephesians 2:2 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,**

### **Verse 2 – Unlocks Verse 1**

Verse two. So verse two unlocks verse one. It says that we're made alive. Verse one by itself. We can say, "Okay, that's nice. I see, we've been made alive," until you read verse two (and three) and see what life was before he made us alive. We're given two things. We walked according to the course of the world and we walked according to the prince and power of the air, and that's Satan. And so this is what we've been made alive from and, oh, the joy of being made alive.

### **Course of World = World Standards**

Verse two: the course of the world means the world's standards and the world's value. And we studied the prophecy update last week and we see all that man's values and the world's values get, we got a mess in this world and we can all say yes to that. While the world's standard is self-centered, it's not God-centered, and that's what's being spoke here, the course of the world. It's about being self-centered, not God-centered.

And Satan is at work to influence the world and to want people to be self-standard, self-centered to make that their standard and their value. And anytime someone is all about themselves, then everything will always be about themselves.

### **Its Good News - Tell it as So – We are Made Alive**

It's the Gospel means good news and sometimes pastors and just people, we don't present the Gospel as good news. It's good news. We've been set free, we've been made alive. We've been given not just abundant life, but eternal abundant life. And when we look back at what we've been set free from that should make us say even more, "Oh, what good news it is."

### **Satan's Radio Station**

How fitting it is when it says Satan is the prince and power the air. I do liken it to that place of Satan has his own radio station (66.6), if you would, and he's sending out his signal and it's going throughout the whole world. And man can choose the dial into a station or to dial into Jesus' station (77.7). And so the devil, he's sending out his signal and whoever decides to dial into it and receive it, they're the ones who become influenced by it. And I think it's just real simple for us as Christians. You know what? Just don't dial in. Just tune it out and then really replace it with dial in to Jesus, and life is going to be great, it's going to be mighty.

### **Meander / Devil wants You to Succeed in Flesh / Movie God's Not Dead**

Verse Two: That word walked is better translated meander. It means to be tossed to and for, and people so much they think they're the captain of their destiny, but no man is. Every man is under the influence. That'd be the Lord or the Prince in power of the air. And let me just say this to anyone who it applies for" don't think the devil isn't all for your business venture to succeed. And don't think the devil isn't all hoping and doing what he can to make your flesh be fulfilled to your desires. Because he knows what that brings and he knows where that leads. He leads away from the Lord, and it continues to drive people away.

I'm reminded of the movie, God's Not Dead, maybe you remember it. The woman who loved the Lord with all of her heart, she has dementia and she's in an assisted living. And her son comes who's a high roller, her son comes, he's got it all, bigwig on Wall Street driving the fancy car, got the cool hair, and the fancy expensive suit, and he comes to visit her and her mind is disconnected, and he's sitting off to the side and he's just looking at her like, what a shell of a person you once were. And if you remember the movie, he's looking at her in the darkness of the scene and he says, "You were the nicest person on the earth. I'm the meanest, and there you sit in your dementia, and here I sit. My life's perfect. I have it all."

In the movie so wonderfully, she comes out of the dementia for a moment. She looks at him and she says, the devil loves to put a nice cushiony prison cell together with all the wonderful things in it. The man becomes comfortable in it and he doesn't want to leave, but then a day comes when he tries to leave, he can't, because he finds that the door has been shut and the cell is locked and the person is trapped within. And the young son just stares in amazement at what has just been said. Then the woman transcends back into dementia and says to him, "I'm sorry, what was your name again?"

*Mark:*

*You prayed and believed your whole life. Never done anything wrong. And here you are. You're the nicest person I know. I am the meanest. You have dementia. My life is perfect. Explain that to me!*

*Mina's Mother:*

*Sometimes the devil allows people to live a life free of trouble because he doesn't want them turning to God. Their sin is like a jail cell, except it is all nice and comfy and there doesn't seem to be any reason to leave. The door's wide open. Till one day, time runs out, and the cell door slams shut, and suddenly it's too late.*

**Ephesians 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.**

### **Conducted Lust of Flesh / As a Man Thinks – Not the Body Craves / Mind Produces the Craving**

Verse three says, "The resultant of verse two is that we conducted ourselves in the course of the world." That is, "We conducted ourselves with the lust of the flesh," it says, "with the fulfilling of the desires of the flesh and the mind." And the scriptures are clear that as a man thinks, therefore he is. And we so often think that it's our flesh that is leading us. It's our appetite. It's that addiction that's leading us, but it's all right there. It's the mind and then what the mind determines the body follows. And so the battle is truly in the mind, the battle isn't in any other part of our body regardless of what the world's culture is trying to say about certain things such as that my body is screaming out for this drug or this physical pleasure. That's not true at all, and that's purposed by Satan, the prince and power of the air, to send out a false signal so that man starts trying to battle things in the wrong approach. Man tries to battle things from the physical flesh, body level and what needs to be battled is in the mind, and then of course that mind needs to be changed.

*Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV) 7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.*

*2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV) 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

### **Cycle – Sowing a Thought and Reaping a Destiny**

There's a cycle that is spoken through the scripture of, as a man thinks on it, then his actions follow it, and then once the action follows it, a habit is established, and once a habit is established, a lifestyle is made. And simply, if we stop and cut it off at the thought level, then the habit and the lifestyle never come in and get footing.

*"Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny."*

*James 1:12-15 (NKJV) 12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

### **Change Way Think / Change Way Live / Queen Victoria – The Twice Governor**

And so Ephesians is a call to change the way we think, a call to live, like our position. And we studied that in earlier chapters,

- When she was young, Queen Victoria was shielded from the fact that she would be the next ruling monarch of England lest this knowledge spoil her. When her teacher finally did let her discover for herself that she would one day be Queen of England, Victoria's response was, "Then I will be good!" Her life would be controlled by her position. No matter where she was, Victoria was governed by the fact that she sat on the throne of England.

- A true story from way back. A man grew up as the son of the town prostitute. The town joke was him; they would say, "who does he look like? They would not allow him in the stores or on the walkway. He started to go to church, and he met the Pastor. The Pastor said, "you know who you look like? And the man thought to himself, the last person I expected it from was the Pastor. Pastor said, "you look like the son of God, go claim your inheritance." He was two times elected governor of his state.
- We are all created in God's image, but it is not until we are adopted will there be a family resemblance.

So I challenge you today to change the way you think, to live like you're called. I remind you of the four points of our last study and I want to remind you again to change the way you're thinking in that you're his inheritance. We have an inheritance, as we studied in verse three, we have a spiritual inheritance, but we can forget that the scripture also said, as we finished last week's study, that we are his inheritance. God considers us his inheritance and an inheritance is something of wealth, of value. It's something that someone says, "I can't believe I received this. This gift is amazing. I cherish it. What a wondrous thing." You're God's gift and you're of great wealth and you're of great value then.

1. That they will know God More. (v.17)
2. That they will know the Hope of His Calling (v.18)
3. That they will know they are His Inheritance (v.18)
4. That they will know the Power Available to them (v.19-23)

God wants us to change the way we think. Man doesn't have to live on lower plane described there in Verses One and Three, but the higher level life made possible through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ, and as promised in Ephesians 1:19 and 1:20. That the same power that rose Jesus from the grave is available for us today.

*Ephesians 1:19–20 (NKJV)*<sup>19</sup> and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power<sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

### **Children of Wrath**

And then the third point is that we're called children of wrath in verse three here. And that wrath was what was due onto us. Some Bible commentators believe this reference to, just as others, Paul is referencing that he and the Jewish people were and making that linking that he was like that but now he's saved and he's making the point of Jew and Gentile. And that is very possible but at the very basis of it, it is true because both Jew and Gentile are in the same place. Neither were separated from this need for a Savior.

The children of wrath means the penalty for being as such that we just were described, the sin that breaks God's commandments, the trespasses that go against His word that we go against. We have the gospel here very clearly spoken to us, man has broken God's law, trespassed, he's separated from God. The penalty for breaking law is the wrath of God, death, eternal separation, for being guilty just as if we broke man's law there's a penalty to pay, so too breaking God's law, there's a penalty to pay. But there is a Verse Four that says, But God. And then begins the good news of Jesus Christ, taking the punishment, trading places, being the substitution that he takes our punishment so that we can become sons and daughters.

*Romans 6:23 (NKJV)*<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Just as Others – Does our Heart Burn for Those who are Dead in Christ**

Verse three. Just as the others, it says, "The world is led by the prince and power of the world. And so here we are reading that we were just like that. And I think there's something to be remembered about that of where we were brought from by God's grace, but also that there are still people who are captive in that place. And so they have this wrath and this judgment that is upon them, and as we look at the riches and the greatness that has given to us, we should be looking on to them and going, "But this is what they're missing. This is what they are in bondage to." And I pray that it would stir our hearts to start rescue missions to go save and rescue people from this.

**Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,**

### **BUT GOD**

You know, Christian, I think too often our language falls so far short in the way we speak and the way we think. Some of the most powerful passages in the Bible are simply two words, "But God." And I think we should put that into our vocabulary. I've purpose in my mind and my heart, in 2020 I'm going to be saying these two words more so than I've said it combined in my whole 25 years of walking with the Lord. And that are those two words, "But God."

- So when I say, or when someone says I failed, the answer is, "But God."
- When we say, "The world is getting darker," we say, "But God," and then we fill in the blank. But God is light, God is victorious.
- "I failed," we say, "But God, who is rich in Mercy, forgives us and restores us."
- When people say, "My marriage is struggling," the two words that follow after that is, "But God." He is able to put that marriage back together and make it strong.
- And when someone says, "I'm depressed," the two words that follow are "But God, He is the one who is able to be the lifter of our soul and our heart and our mind."
- When someone says, "This thing is too strong to me," the next two words that we should speak is, "But God, He has overcome, and He is the victor and will bring you victory."
- So I'm going to put those two words in my vocabulary, and I hope you will too.

### **Definition of Mercy and Grace**

Verse Four:

- Mercy - means not getting what you deserve.
- Grace - means getting what you don't deserve.

Do you see the difference? We deserve punishment, but Mercy says I won't give that to you. Grace is getting what you don't deserve and earned and we get salvation and we get love. We didn't earn it but God gives it. That's what Grace does, it gives us something that we didn't earn, that we didn't have to perform, and Mercy keeps us from getting the wrath that we deserve. And Oh, the beauty of these two words, the Mercy of God is best described as love in action, and that's what we see here in our passage before us today.

### **Definition Mercy given in Verses 4-5 / Mercy based on Love**

Verse four says, "Rich in mercy," and we're given the definition of what rich and mercy is by verses four and five. Mercy loves, God's mercy loves, even when we were dead in sin. Mercy brings and gives life in Christ we read, and that life in Christ is not just any life, it's John 10:10, it's an abundant life, it's a rich life, it's an overflowing life. And we read mercy saves by grace. And we read, grace is based on mercy. And we read mercy is based on love, the love of God. Because of his love, mercy and grace are secured is what we read here in verse four.

*John 10:10 (NKJV) <sup>10</sup> The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

**Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),**

### **It is How God Operates**

Verse five: Mercy is a gift as much as Grace, and it's all based on love. Grace is how God operates. God doesn't manifest acts of Mercy because we deserve it, it's because it's love in action. Grace and Mercy both come out of the nature of God. God is love, First John 4:8. When we settle that God is love, then we settle the way he will operate, and His actions are Grace and Mercy, because it stems from His very nature and being.

### **Saved – Perfect Tense**



Verse five says, "You have been saved." This is in the perfect tense, meaning having been saved, and the verb tense is "shown complete action with continuous results". You having been saved, it's a past tense word but has a continual action with it, meaning it's eternal, the saving and the salvation is eternal based on Christ.

### **Before the Foundation of the World**

He loved us before the foundation of the world. And Romans 5:8 says, "While we were still yet sinners, Christ died for us." What we read here and see here is eternal love continually told by God. So we know God loved us when we were sinners, yet some receive that gladly and receive the salvation, then sin after salvation and somehow they believe God doesn't love them because they're a sinner. To which is totally contradiction. If God loved us before and when we were sinners, why then would He change now? Grace means undeserved. We didn't deserve the Grace that we got to be saved, and we don't deserve it now. Yet God continues to give it because that's who He is. Why do we think something changes after we get saved, and we just continue to demonstrate that we're still yet sinners?

*Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV) <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*

*Romans 5:6–11 (NKJV) <sup>6</sup> For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. <sup>10</sup> For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup> And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*

People confuse, forget that Grace is timeless and eternal. It is before, it is now, and it is forever. God loved you before when in sin and not saved, and God loves you now, still a sinner but saved.

Romans 8 said, "There's no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

*Romans 8:1 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

"If you love me before, then surely you love me now," we can say unto the Lord. No, and now I can rest in that and this ties in with us, then we'll live like it when we know His love is timeless and our forgiveness is secured and eternal.

### **Do We have Mercy on those in Trespasses and Sin?**

Mercy loves even when someone is dead in trespasses and sin. This is the promise that we come here, we receive and we celebrate it. But if we're being made into the image of Christ and we're going to live our lives like Christ, then we have to ask ourselves, do we love like this? Do we give mercy? Do we love as God? God's mercy loves those who are dead in their trespass and sin. Do we have a compassion for them or did we bring a judgment upon them? We should be looking upon people and go, "There go I except by the grace and mercy of God." And then we should find our hearts opening to say, "May I pray that the mercy and grace and love of God reaches them while they're dead in their trespasses and sin."

**Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**

### **Comparing Darkness & Light**

So Verse Five and Six we go from the former condition that we once were, back in Four and Five to the present condition that we are now, to mark the contrast between dead to life. Verse Five and Six contrast this great difference in brightness between the darkness.

And do you notice Verse Five were identified with His death, Verse Six were identified with His resurrection, and then the second half of Verse Six were identified with His ascension. As we see dead, resurrected, and ascended, that's beautiful for us. The identity, as we identify with Christ, and that's what baptism is. As we're



baptized, the old man is buried and left dead in the grave, and the new man is resurrected into the new man and new life, and then we are raised up and seated with him in Heavenly places. Beautiful passage.

### **God's Output of Mercy & Grace**

Verse six and seven, mercy, grace, and love are God's input, if you would, and then verses six and seven tell us what the outputs are.

### **Christ is not on the Cross**

We will be raised from the dead because Jesus rose from the dead, and proves that we will too. Jesus is not on the cross anymore, the cross is empty, the tomb is empty, because He has risen. With that comes power, because the dead are powerless. Too many people have a dead Jesus, a Jesus who is still on the cross.

A brother at the men's prayer breakfast was telling how He was raised Catholic and could never understand the so-called Born-again believers. He said a friend told him about the death and resurrection of Christ, and he said he already believed that and can't understand why they made a big deal about it...but all the while living in sin. But as time passed he struggled with it more knowing that something was wrong in his life, he cried out to God one day coming home from Ocean city, he said show me what the cross means. When he got home he found his cross with Jesus on it had fallen to the ground and Jesus had broken off of it. He tried repeatedly to get Jesus back on the cross but he wouldn't stay on it. He called his friend and told him the story, and his friend said that is what I have been telling you, Jesus is no longer on the cross, he has victory over sin and death and is seated in heaven...then he got it, and gave his life to the Lord.

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### **We Are Raised and Seated Together / Lazarus**

Verse Six: I like what one of the old time commentators said, "God has reserved a seat for you next to Him in Heaven." I look at that in my word picture life that I like to think in has God patting the chair. When we really want someone to sit next to us, we hit the chair and we wave to them, we say, "You, come sit here next to me, I want you next to me," and that's what the Lord is doing to us.

In John 11 Lazarus is raised from the dead, and then in John 12 he is seated next to Christ. Picture of us and for us.

*John 11:39 (NKJV) <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."*

*John 11:43-44 (NKJV) <sup>43</sup> Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" <sup>44</sup> And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."*

*John 12:1-3 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.*

### **Do I say You Sit Here or You Sit Over There?**

"We are raised up together," it says, "and we're seated together in heavenly places." And so I say again, do you notice what we have here as a body of Christ? Do you see the us? He's speaking of a body. Do you see that we are raised up together, we are seated together in heavenly places? Is that how we look at our brothers and sisters in Christ? Do we look at them and say, "No, you sit over there. I sit here"? God says, "Raised up," and what happens raised up, I see a weird picture in my mind of God taking his nail scarred hands, reaching them out and lifting us up. "I lift you up from where you were. I pull you up to have you seated with me." And so the question for us, do we want to be like Jesus today this year? And if your heart will then God would be

asking to you, "Who will you reach your hand out to and who will you lift up? Who is it that you can lift up? Who will you reach your hand up and lift down and say, 'You come here and you sit by me'?"

Ephesians is going to build, there's going to be a wave that's building, and I don't want to get there until we get there in chapter four, but there's this building up that's being continually woven in here in chapters one through three and not just what God has done for us, but what God has done for that person to your left and that person to your right. What God has done for the body and he's building a body, a beautiful body, and he wants us to change the way we think and he wants us to look and go, "That person is seated next to me. That person has been raised up next to me." They've been seated next to Christ. We will be seated together at the banqueting table at the marriage supper of the lamb during that seven year feast. During the tribulation period down here, we should start practicing for the marriage supper of the lamb right here, right now in this church today of that sweet fellowship that we will have together.

**Ephesians 2:7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

#### **Verse 7 / Eternal Promise**

Verse seven is an eternal promise. Ages to come for all of eternity, God wants to show us exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness towards us. God says to you today, "This is what today is. Tomorrow and eternity is me pouring out my love, my grace upon you." And may it be reminded, grace is not based on performance, but His performance. And He's saying to you today, tomorrow, and forever, I want to pour out this great grace, exceeding wealth of grace and kindness towards you

#### **Trophies of Grace**

Verse Seven: the story doesn't end there. Verse Seven shows why God has done it, why He has accomplished Verse Four and Six, which were contrast to One and Three show the need for it. Verse Seven says, "All of eternity, that's today, to show all creation God's Grace." Believers are truly God's trophy of Grace. That's what He's declaring, this is why He's doing it. We are trophies of Grace.

You want to know God's Grace. He holds Ray Bollas up and says, "Need I say more? Look how gracious I am." And He takes all those who were dead in trespasses and sin, all of those whose lives were hopeless and meandering and wandering, and He holds them up before all the world and says, "How can you say I'm not gracious?" And that's the same with anyone to say how can he be a God of love? To which I say, "Hold me up. You can challenge all the things of this fallen world. But when you look at those who He has saved for no reason, other than He is love and He operates in love, and that produces in His love, Mercy and Grace, He holds us up as His trophies of Grace and says, "No one can say I'm not love."

And then if you aren't settled with that, His love is based on a cross on a hill in Palestine 2,000 years ago, where He says, "This is how much I love you."

#### **Kindness Leads to Repentance**

Verse Seven: it is His kindness that leads us to repentance. When I see it, receive it, it changes the way I live. When I came and understood His love, His kindness, His sweetness, I was drawn to it, I was captivated by it. I wanted to get closer and closer, not getting away from it, but closer. And so that changed my life as I see what that passage means, it's His kindness that leads to repentance. It truly shows me I don't want nothing getting in the way of this flow of His kindness and His sweetness, and that's what sin does, it blocks things up, it puts a barrier between us and our relationship. But because I wanted more, and to know Him more, and to be with Him more, and to be more intimately with Him, and it was His kindness that led me to repentance.

*Romans 2:3–4 (NKJV)* <sup>3</sup> And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup> Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

And so I hope that word is moving in your heart today to know His kindness and say more Jesus, more of Jesus. It's not you dwelling on your failures and your faults that's going to get you closer to Jesus. It's going to be dwelling and focusing on Jesus that will get you further away from your faults and your failures.

## **Conclusion**

**Title:** Title: Our Past, Present, and Future (Amazing)

### **Why it Matters to You**

Why does this passage matter to you? Why spend an hour of your time to hear this, to study this, to come here when you could be elsewhere? Because God, the Author of these words..... wants you to know your past has been washed away by His finished work on the cross! That your present is empowered to overcome..... by Him, because you are raised and seated with Him, raised to life. And, your future (which includes today and all eternity) He will spend it showing you His kindness and mercy..... now those are words that can change a life “today”, regardless who you are, how long you have known Him, or maybe still searching for answers of who He is, is He real, and does He want to have a personal relationship with you..... to which He answers you today that He does.

### **3P's of the Passage**

#### Person

- Is made alive, they are no longer dead in sin.
- Has a new walk, and is set free.
- Is loved by God.

#### Position

- Alive together with Christ.
- Raised up together with each other (meaning the other saints)
- Seated in Heavenly places in Christ,
- Saved by Grace

#### Promise

- Saved by Grace (not our performance).
- Receives the riches of His Grace
- Receives the riches of his Mercy

### **The Word of God in Our Hand Today**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)* <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)* <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### **End of Study**