

But God

Living Life for The Praise of His Glory: A Study of the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Some of the most inspiring stories come from those who rise from rags to riches, from the bottom to the top, and from humble beginnings to success and prosperity. Equally inspiring are stories of those who rise from death or near-death experiences to life. But in the Book of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul has something greater than rags to riches or near-death experiences in mind. He writes of a God who raised His Son from the dead and has the power to raise us as well!

Focus: Ephesians 2:1-22

- I. The Death in Which We Lived (2:1-3, 5)
 - A. The Instruments of Spiritual Death
 - 1. The transgressions we committed
 - 2. The sin we practiced
 - B. The Evidence of Spiritual Death
 - 1. Our walk
 - 2. Our values
 - 3. Our desires
 - 4. Our thoughts
 - 5. Our obsessions
- II. The Alienation We Experienced (2:11-12)
 - A. Separated from Christ
 - B. Excluded from the benefits of citizenship
 - C. Foreigners to the covenants of promise
 - D. Without hope
 - E. Without God
- III. The Consequences We Feared (2:3)
 - A. Guilt
 - B. Shame
 - C. Doom

IV. The Intervention That Came – “But God!” (2:4-9; 14-18)

A. God Rescued Us!

1. God saved us by His grace.
2. God raised us by His power.
3. God seated us in the heavenly realms with Christ.
4. God made us a poetic expression of His love.

B. God Reconciled Us by the Blood of His Son!

1. He overcame the distance (2:13).
2. He resolved the disunion (2:14).
3. He destroyed the division (2:14).
4. He healed the dissension (2:15).
5. He did away with distinctions (2:15-16).

V. The New Life We Enjoy (2:10, 19-22)

- A. We Are Citizens of One City.
- B. We Are Members of One Household.
- C. We Are Built Upon One Foundation.
- D. We Have Access to God by One Spirit.
- E. We Are a Dwelling Place of God.