

The Epistle Of
EPHESIANS
PART 04 – OUR RISEN ESTATE
Ephesians 2:4-10

Our Spiritual Position In Christ

Chapter Structure

<i>Ephesians 2:1-10</i>	Positioned With The Head
<i>Ephesians 2:1-3</i>	Before Christ - Dead
<i>Ephesians 2:4-10</i>	After Christ - Raised
<i>Ephesians 2:11-22</i>	Positioned With The Body
<i>Ephesians 2:11-12</i>	Before Christ - Alienated
<i>Ephesians 2:13-22</i>	After Christ - Reconciled

After Christ

Introduction

Our Fallen State

Ephesians 2:4a

But God...

We were dead

- In trespasses
- In sins

We were disobedient

- Under the inescapable gravitational pull of the world
- Under the insatiable lust of the flesh
- Under the pitiless dominion of the prince of the power of the air

We were depraved

- Morally corrupt
- Irredeemably wicked

We were doomed

- Children of wrath
- Fit for judgement (and nothing else)

We were born with a death sentence over our head

- And there is nothing we can do about it
- We have no means in ourselves to escape

Our Only Hope

From the prison cell of our human condition

- There is one hope for salvation
- *But God...*

From the graveyard of our sin

- There is one hope for resurrection
- *But God...*

<i>Ephesians 2:1-3</i>	The Bad News
<i>Ephesians 2:4-10</i>	The Good News

Question: How is it the good news?

Answer: The focus switches from sinful man, onto a holy God

Everything changes when you focus on God

- Why?
- “Salvation is of the Lord” **Jonah 2:9**

God's Work For Us

Paul reminds the Ephesians of four works God has performed in our lives

1. He loved us
2. He quickened us
3. He exalted us
4. He keeps us

He Loved Us

Ephesians 2:4-5a

But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins

The Effect Of Being Loved

God loves us

- It's not a small love
- *His great love wherewith He loved us*

Greek = agape
Definition = is the love that exists regardless of changing circumstances
Is the highest expression of love

- There is nothing so stirring
- There is nothing so encouraging
- There is nothing so comforting
- As being loved

Scientific Benefits of Love (www.thinkright.me)

Love, or the feeling of love, releases a chemical which acts as a mood intensifier, so people feel extremely positive and appreciated. Love leads to an increased ability to cope with stress. Love helps you live longer. A significant effect of love on health is that it miraculously gives you longevity. When in love you have someone to look after you, and you too look after yourself by maintaining a balanced healthy lifestyle. Married couples are found to have lower rates of substance abuse, lower blood pressure and less depression than their single friends.

But that's Eros (romantic love)

- Agape is much higher and stronger

If Eros makes you feel appreciated

- God's agape says you're not only accepted, but have purpose, value and intrinsic worth

If Eros helps you cope with stress

- God's agape grants you a peace that passes understanding

If Eros lowers rates of substance abuse, blood pressure and depression

- God's agape bestows on you love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control

If Eros helps you live longer

- God's agape gives you eternal life

God's Character of Love

God's every character is love

1 John 4:8

God is love

God would be love

- Even if there were no sinners
- Even if there were no-one to love
- It is part of His being / nature

Theology says 'love' is one of God's 'attributes'

1. Intrinsic Attributes - That which He possesses (e.g. life, love, holiness)
2. Relative Attributes - That by which He relates His creation

Intrinsic Attribute = Truth
Relative Attribute = Faithfulness (when related to man)

Intrinsic Attribute = Holy
Relative Attribute = Justice (when related to man)

Intrinsic Attribute = Love
Relative Attribute = mercy and grace (when related to sinners)

God's Mercy & Grace

Question: In what measure or degree of mercy and grace does God bestow on sinners?

Answer: rich (wealthy or abounding)

Mercy = "God, who is rich in mercy" **Ephesians 2:4**
Grace = "the exceeding riches of His grace" **Ephesians 2:7**

- God doesn't operate with "two mites" worth of mercy and grace towards sinners
- God operates from the abundant riches of His mercy and grace

We are not saved by God's love

- We are saved by God's mercy and grace
- Which is an outworking of His character of love

In His mercy - He does not give us what we deserve (judgement)
In His grace - He give us what we have not earnt (righteousness and salvation)

This was made possible through the death of Jesus Christ at Calvary

- Here God displayed His hatred of sin
- Here God displayed His love for sinners

Romans 5:8

But God commends His love toward us. In that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

He Quickened Us

Ephesians 2:5

Even when we were dead in sin, has quickened us together with Christ,

Made Alive

To be quickened

- Is to be made alive
- Even when we were dead (in sins)

This quickening occurs by means of

- The Word of God
- The Holy Spirit

There are three recorded resurrections during Jesus ministry

- The Widow's Son (**Luke 7:11-17**)
- Jairus Daughter (**Luke 8:49-56**)
- Lazarus (**John 11:41-46**)

The Pattern of Resurrection

In these three accounts, the pattern for resurrection is laid

- Jesus speaks God's word
- This is followed by God's resurrection power being demonstrated

The Widow's Son (Luke 7:11-17)

He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Jairus Daughter (Luke 8:49-56)

He took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up.

Lazarus (John 11:41-46)

Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out,

The pattern for resurrection is laid

- Jesus speaks God's word
- This is followed by God's resurrection power being demonstrated

We who are born again follow the same pattern

- As sinners we hear God's word
- Then God resurrects us in our spirit

John 5:24

Verily, verily, I say to you, He that hears my word, and believes on Him that sent Me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation: but is passed from death to life.

Two-Stage Quickening

Our quickening is in stages

- Stage 1- In the spirit
- Stage 2 - in the body

The sinner who has heard the word of God

- Has responded in faith and repentance
- Is quickened in their spirit

Then when Christ returns (at the rapture)

- Those who are quickened in the spirit will meet Him in the air
- Their mortal bodies will be quickened

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you.

He Exalted Us

Ephesians 2:6

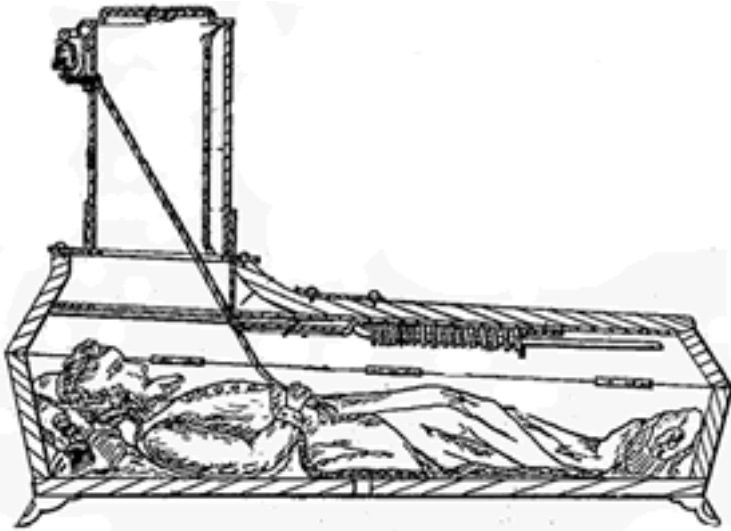
And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Saved By The Bell / Dead Ringers

- 18th century people could be accidentally buried alive
- The 'safety coffin' was invented
- This had a cord that ran from inside the coffin to a bell above ground
- If the person proved to be only comatose
- They would revive, ring the bell, then could be dug up and saved

The Improved Burial Case.

**Patent No. 81,437 Franz Vester, Newark, New Jersey.
August 25, 1868.**



A sinner is not “saved by the bell”
A sinner is saved by the blood

Raised With Christ

Translation *dead*
Greek *nekros*
Definition *corpse*

A dead man

- Lies in a coffin
- Buried in a graveyard

If you knew that person was alive

- You wouldn't leave him in the coffin
- Or let him remain in the graveyard

Once raised with Christ

- We are not left in the graveyard of this world
- We are raised up with Christ into heavenly places

Physical Position - On earth
Spiritual Position - In heavenly places

When the second stage of our quickening occurs

- Physical position will change
- We will be translated to heaven

John 14:3

I will come again, and receive you to Myself: that where I am, there you may be also.

This is the believers “*blessed hope*” (**Titus 2:13**)

He Keeps Us

Ephesians 2:7

That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Our Eternal Purpose

God's purpose in our salvation

- Is not only to rescue us from hell and judgement
- But we might give praise and glory to God for eternity

Ephesians 1:5-6,12,14

To the praise of His glory

Many Christians spend much time seeking God's will

- Whether it be God's blessing in some small area of their life
- Or their calling, ministry or gifting

These are merely a temporary purpose (in this life)

- God has an eternal purpose for us to fulfil
- To praise and give Him glory
- And we don't have to wait for eternity to do that!

That in the ages to come...

- The believers in the days of Paul praise God and gave Him glory for the riches of His grace
- Throughout the ages until now believers have praised God and given Him glory for the riches of His grace
- Into eternity the same will occur

Charles Spurgeon

"When all the saints shall be gathered home they shall still talk and speak of the wonders of Jehovah's love in Christ Jesus, and in the golden streets they shall stand up and tell what the Lord has done for them to listening crowds of angels, and principalities, and powers."

Fanny Crosby

This is my story, this is my song, praising the Saviour all the day long.

Our Eternal Security

- If God has an eternal purpose
- God will keep us for all eternity (to fulfil that purpose)
- i.e. our salvation has the strength and integrity to keep us for eternity that we might fulfil our eternal purpose

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Our salvation is

- By Grace
- Through Faith
- A Gift
- Not of Works

By Grace

Grace means

- Salvation was not deserved
- Salvation occurs apart from any merit or work of our own
- Salvation is done by God all by Himself for Jesus sake

Through Faith

Faith is the means by which we appropriate salvation

- If salvation is the water
- Then faith is the hose

If we are dying of thirst

- The hose benefits us nothing
- It is the water that is our salvation

A Gift

Salvation is a gift

- It is not earned
- It is not a reward

God does not gift us with salvation

- Only to take it away
- It is securely ours

There are some who argue that the “*gift*” is faith not salvation

- This implies that God enables some to believe and others to not believe
- This implies that there is no free will, God determines who is saved

The Greek makes it clear

- The gift is not the faith we have (faith is not the gift)
- The gift is salvation God has provided

Adam Clarke

The original Greek is clear

- When it says “*it is the gift of God*”
- The “*it*” referred to is salvation, not faith.

Dean Alford (Greek Scholar)

Pointed out that

- The “*this not of yourselves*” referred to salvation
- Not to faith in this passage.

Not of Works

Salvation cannot be “*of works*”

- The work of salvation was completed at the cross
- “*He said, ‘It is Finished.’” John 19:30*
- It is a work God performs for us
- Not something that we co-operate toward in any measure

Warren Wiersbe

Since we have not been saved by our goods works, we cannot be lost by our bad works.

We are not saved by grace to then

- Retain that salvation by works
- Retain that salvation by faith

- Faith can grow
- Faith can die
- But the gift remains

- It’s God that keep us
- Not our faith that keeps us

Caveat

If we could lose our salvation

- Because of His “*great love wherewith He loved us*” (***Ephesians 2:4***)
- I am persuaded that He would bring our life to end prematurely
- So that we would be guaranteed salvation

- He loves us
- He doesn’t want to lose
- He will keep us

God’s Work In Us

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.

His Workmanship

For we are His workmanship

Greek = poiēma
Definition = something made, a product being manufactured

Work Of Salvation

- Salvation has a beginning - Conversion (Past) Justification
- Salvation has a continuation - Consecration (Present) Sanctification
- Salvation has a completion - Consummation (Future) Glorification

The process of consecration

- Is making us more holy
- Is making us into the image of Christ

Romans 8:29

For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be confirmed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Work Of Art

Greek = poiēma
Usage = Poem

There are great works of poetry
There are lesser works of poetry

Matthew Hobbs

Your love is embedded in me like six rounds of lead.

We are God's workmanship

- We are God's poem
- It is a masterpiece
- We are His work of art

We are to God what

- 'Sonnet 18' was to William Shakespeare *"Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"*
- 'Daffodils' was to William Wordsworth *"I wandered lonely as a cloud"*
- 'The Tiger' was to William Blake *"Tiger, Tiger, burning bright,"*

Work Tools

The means by which God works in our lives are three tools

- Word of God Feeds us, cleanses us, changes our thinking
- Prayer God's Spirit works in us to apply the word, empower us and change us
- Suffering Drives us back to the word and prayer and the cycle repeats

Our Works

created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.

We are not saved by good works
We are saved to perform good work

There are many 'works' spoken of in Scripture

- "works of the law" **Galatians 2:16**
- "works of darkness" **Romans 13:12**
- "dead works" **Hebrews 6:1**
- "works of righteousness" *b*

Question: What are the works Paul is speaking of?

Answer: Good Works

Answer: Prepared Works

Good Works

In contrast to "works of darkness"

Ephesians 2:2	Satan is working in the unbeliever	result =	Works of darkness
Ephesians 2:10	God is working in the believer	result =	Good works

- Good works are not the result of our effort, our strength and wisdom
- Good works are the result of God working in our lives
- Good works are the produce of the word of God, prayer and suffering in our lives

Prepared Works

God has prepared works for us to undertake

- That means God has a plan for your lives
- That means there is purpose to your existence

If you are facing hardship, trial or suffering

- It is not without purpose
- It is part of God's plan for your life

There are times of preparation

There are times of service

Moses had forty years of preparation in Midian

- Before the time of service in Egypt and the wilderness
- He then undertook the works prepared for him

Joseph suffered thirteen years of preparation

- Before the time of service in Egypt
- He then undertook the works prepared for him

David suffered many years from His anointing

- Before the time he ascended the throne of Israel
- He then undertook the works prepared for him

Closing

- You may be in a time of service
- You may be in a time of preparation
- Either way let Christ work in you
- That you may be to the praise of His glory!