THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLE

CHAPTER 2:4-7

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TITLE:

"FROM DEATH TO LIFE" - PART 2

THE BELIEVERS RICHES IN CHRIST

THEME:

Ephesians 1:3
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

INTRODUCTION vv. 2:1-7 (4-7)

Everyone loves to look at the stars! We have just had a spectacular display in the heavens by the comet

A couple weeks ago in Lake Tahoe the view of the comet was at its best because it was against a blacker, darker sky - the darker the background, the brighter the star!

Psalm 19:1
The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.

- How Can That Be?

Because what they are proclaiming is obvious, it is observable!

That there is a God
and He is Full of Glory

A couple weeks ago, months ago, years ago - in this life, you were brought out from the world. Against your old background you now shine!

Now because of your darker, blacker background, you are the brighter star that shines to the glory of God!

Jesus Put it This Way;

Luke 7:47
"Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

From Mount Whitney to Death Valley

So from the Depths of Depravity in Death Valley in Verse 1-3
We are resurrected to the Heights of Heaven in Verses 4-7

We were so dead in our self-centered, self-pleasing, self-life that the only way we could have experienced life, is by Resurrection!

1.) The Treasures of Our God vv. 4

a) But God Who is Rich vv.4a

In the darkest of scenarios in the blackest of situations...

But God

* **Riches** **GRK 4149 ploutos (ploo'-tos)**
  All existing wealth (or fullness of all that can be owned)

* **Mercy** **GRK 1656 eleos (el'-eh-os)**
  Compassion (+tender) mercy.

Mercy presupposes that Judgment has already been decreed - and the verdict is Guilty!

Romans 3:19
Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Galatians 4:4
But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **to redeem those (US) who were under the law,**

But God

Galatians 5:18
But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

b) But God Who Loves (ed) vv.4b

1 John 4:8
For God is love.

WE get this notion that God has to love us...

He Loves You - That is True
(I don't apologize for that)

BUT HE LIKES YOU TOO

Romans 5:8
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Jeremiah 31:3
"Yes, I have **loved** you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you (close to Him

“The PAST-tenses”

- **Loved**
- **Were Dead**

Colossians 2:13
And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

- **Have Been Saved**
- **Raised Us Up**
- **Made Us Sit**

If you could peek into heaven and enter the eternal realm
you would see you

2.) But God who is Gracious vv. 5-6

BUT GOD FORGIVES US

EVEN WHEN WE WERE NOT FIT TO BE FORGIVEN

We Demand That Someone First Say that they are Sorry before we will grace them with our lofty forgiveness...

- That’s Conditional Forgiveness

But God Has Forgiven the Human Race of their Sin!

What He demands is that you receive this forgiveness
To reject His free-payment is to commitment spiritual suicide

But How Do We Know That We Have?

John 5:24
"Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who hears** My word **and believes in Him**
who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

1 John 3:14
We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren.
(Do you want to be with them, helping them, serving them, doing for them,

Mankind is divided into two groups tonight

The RESURRECTED & The Dead

HE WILL NOT FORGIVE THEIR SIN OF Rejecting Jesus

b) Seated With Christ (on His lap?)

What does it mean to be seated?

- ~~walked in and taken to a seat~~ ~~by arrangement~~
- ~~drug in and put on a seat~~ ~~by force~~
- **to be placed upon a seat** **by invitation**

NEWNESS OF LIFE

A BRAND NEW LIFE

#1 **HE'S RAISED US UP** (from the world, the earth)

#2 **HE'S SAT US DOWN** (now at rest, free form works)

#3 **IN THE HEAVENLIES** (in the heavenlies)

Romans 10:12
For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

Philippians 3:20
For our citizenship (conversation-the way we live our lives) is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

The Issue is Conduct

Conduct because of What He has Done for Us - Enabling Us!

Conduct because of the Mercy He has extended to Us - Protecting Us

Conduct because of the Grace He has poured out upon Us - Blessing Us

Colossians 3:1-2
Since, then, you have been **raised** with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is **seated** at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

c) Special Recognition (Here & There)

#1 The Believer is positioned with “Jesus”, In “Heaven”, at “Rest”
#2 The Believer Shares in the Finished work of Christ

He Sat Down - He Sits - He’s Sitting

(Only when a saint dies does he arise to greet them)

Acts 7:56
And Steven said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man **standing** at the right hand of God!"

3.) The Most Powerful Verse in the Bible vv. 7

“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”

1. This is the reason why God created all things
2. This is the reason why God engineered man with the ability to choose
3. This is the reason why the fall was allowed to take place in the garden
4. This is the reason why God gave and has preserved the Bible today
5. This is the reason why God is waiting for the very Last believer

This is the reason why God engineered man with the ability to choose
to have true worship and relationship

This is the reason why the fall was allowed to take place in the garden
tough man destroyed himself - God would save him in spite of man

This is the reason why God gave and has preserved the Bible today
to tell us of His love and commitment to us

This is the reason why God is waiting for the very last believer
because His is not wanting any one to perish

Are You Sitting Down?

That we would be the receivers of it - All His attention - For all eternity

Attention Displayed By; • His Grace, • His Kindness

In Us Who Are In Christ

We are the Object of His Passions

"The FUTURE-tenses"

a) God is Awaiting Our Arrival

This is the reason why God does what He does

* ages GRK 165 aion (ahee-ohn')
  Perpetuity, the past, present, and the successive future, without end

NOT JUST RICHES OF MERCY & GRACE BUT....

* **Exceeding Riches GRK 5235 huperballo (hoop-er-bal'-lo)**
  To go beyond all others, to surpass all before it,
  To excel pass them all
  (To Boldly Go Where No Man has Gone Before)

* **Riches** **GRK 4149 ploutos (ploo'-tos)**
  All existing wealth (or fullness of all that can be owned)
- (Literally) possessions
- (Figuratively) abundance
- (Specifically) all valuable bestowment

1 Corinthians 2:9
But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

(DID YOU SEE & FEEL THE SUNSET & TWILIGHT LAST NIGHT?)

For me it was as perfect as it could be TEMP. SOUNDS, THE VIEW

2 Corinthians 12:2
I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-- whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows-- such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man-- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, knows-- how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which is not lawful for a man to tell.

John 14:2
"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have
told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

b) He is waiting to Display His Grace

Like the proud parent
"That's my Girl - That's my Boy"

Remember in sports how our moms & dads would wear a pin with our picture or number on it!!!

You could always spot the mom who's
daughter or son had just scored!

*&%% **Way to Go** %@#$@%$#%$ **That-a-girl** %@#$@%$#%$ **He's my Boy**

c) In Kindness Toward Us Who are In Christ

* **Kindness** **GRK 5544 chrestotes (khray-stot'-ace);**
Excellence in character or demeanor, gentleness, good (-ness)

Riches of Mercy (Not getting what we should get)
Riches of His Grace (Getting what we shouldn't get)

A warning;

He has provided this glory that awaits us. Reserved in heaven for us
to neglect this offer that God has made - carries with it eternal punishment

People will attempt to blame God
for giving them the "freedom of choice"
and for being responsible for their choices!

Hebrews 2:3
how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began