

The Church – Alive With Christ

TEXT: Eph. 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

- A. LAST LESSON è GOD’S POWER SEEN THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.
- B. THAT DEMONSTRATED HIS ABILITY TO RAISE AND EXALT US.
- C. IN OUR TEXT, **WE ARE ALREADY RAISED 000 SPIRITUALLY.**

I. THE PAST CONDITION OF GENTILE CHRISTIANS (vs. 1-3).

- A. THEY WERE **SPIRITUALLY DEAD IN SIN** (vs. 1; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:12).
- B. “WHEREIN **YE** ONCE WALKED” – REFERS TO THEIR **MANNER OF LIFE.**
 - 1. According to the course of this world (**1 John 2:15-17**).
 - 2. According to the prince of the powers of the air (**John 8:44; Eph. 6:12**).
 - 3. According to the spirit that works in the sons of disobedience (**Phil. 3:18-19**).
- C. AMONG WHOM **WE** ALSO ONCE LIVED IN THE LUST OF OUR FLESH.
 - 1. **Both Jew & Gentile** were lost before Christ (**Rom. 3:9-10**).
 - 2. Doing the lusts of the flesh and mind (**1 Pet. 2:11; 5:5-6**).
 - 3. **By nature children of wrath** – habitual practice – raised in a sinful environment – a **wicked and perverse generation** (**Phil. 2:15; Acts 2:40**).

II. PRESENT CONDITION (vs. 1, 5-7).

“YOU DID HE MAKE ALIVE!”

- A. TOGETHER WITH CHRIST (**1:3, 9-10**)
- B. RAISED US UP TOGETHER WITH HIM (**Rom. 6:4**).
- C. MADE US TO SIT AT HIS RIGHT HAND IN HEAVENLY PLACES (**Rev. 5:9-10**).
- D. HIS PURPOSE (vs. 7): IN AGES TO COME – THIS POINT FORWARD – HIS GRACE TOWARD US IS MANIFEST IN HIS MERCY & LOVINGKINDNESS.
- E. **WHY?** WHAT MOTIVATED GOD? (vs. 4) **GOD LOVED US** (**John 3:16**).
- F. IT WAS BY **GRACE** AND **MERCY**.
 - 1. Mercy implies action. Includes emotional aspect of God’s action.
 - 2. Grace. Man’s own merit could not compel this action – It was undeserved.

III. WHAT BROUGHT US HERE? (vs. 8).

FOR BY GRACE HAVE YOU BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH.

- A. **GRACE IS GOD’S PART** IN OUR REDEMPTION.
 - 1. Before it can save it must find expression in Christ.
 - 2. What does Grace do?
 - a. Justifies (**Rom. 3:24**)
 - b. Saves (**Eph. 2:5**).
 - c. Redeems & Forgives (**1:7**)
 - d. Thru it we reign (**Rom. 5:17**)

3. How is Grace Expressed?
 - a. Christ's death (**Rom. 3:24-25**).
 - b. In Christ's prayer (**Luke 23:34**).
 - c. In the first and subsequent gospel sermons (**Titus 2:11-12**).

B. FAITH IS MAN'S PART AND, LIKE GRACE, MUST FIND EXPRESSION.

1. What does faith do for us?
 - a. Justifies (**Rom. 5:1**).
 - b. Motivates (**2 Cor. 5:7**).
 - c. Directs (**Rom. 14:23**).
 - d. Protects (**1 Pet.1:5; Eph.6:16**).
2. Faith finds expression in what it causes one to do.
 - a. What's faith? Trust (**Heb. 11:6**).
 - b. Old Testament (**Heb. 11:7, 8, 24**).
 - c. James (**Jas. 2:22-24; Gal. 5:6**).
 - d. What specifically does faith express itself in?

Romans 6:1-7

- i. (**vs. 7**) **He that hath died is justified** (by grace thru faith – **Eph. 2:8**).
- ii. **Baptized into his death** so that we die to sin (**vs. 2-3**).
- iii. United with him in the likeness of his death (**vs. 4-5**).
- iv. **When do faith and grace justify? When we die? When is this?**
(**Rom. 6:6-7, 8,11**)

CONCLUSION:

- A. IF YOU BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS, EXPRESS YOUR FAITH BY DYING TO SIN WITH CHRIST THROUGH HIS DEATH.
- B. BE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH RIGHT NOW.