

We Are Redeemed to Reign

August 12, 2012

Eph 2:4-10 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

I. Review:

A. But God

God saw our condition; He saw that we were dead (trapped) in trespasses and sins, He knew that we were held captive by the course of the world (peer pressure), spiritual forces of darkness and our fallen, sinful, human nature. (Eph 2:1-3)

The gospel proclaims: "God has accomplished for us what we have failed to do for ourselves."

Eph 2:4-5 through grace He has saved us.

But God, ... even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Rom 8:3-4 He has fulfilled the requirement of the Law for us.

For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Col 2:13-14 He has removed all barriers and obstacles, forgiving our transgressions and canceling our certificate of debt.

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

B. God responded to our need because of who He is:

1. God is rich in mercy!

The word "rich" (Gk = plousios) "wealthy, abounding in material resources, abounding, abundantly supplied." (from Wuest's Word Studies)

2. God is love (1 Jn 4:8, 16).

Rom 5:6-10 God demonstrates His love for the world by sending Jesus to die for people who are helpless, ungodly, unrighteous, sinful and enemies.

John 3:16-17 the Father sent Jesus to save (and not judge) the world, because of his great love.

3. God is full of grace upon grace!

Jn 1:16-17 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

C. We have been transferred from ... and to ...:

1. From death to life.
Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ
2. From bondage to freedom.
Eph 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus
3. From the tomb to the throne.
Eph 2:6 and ...seated us with Him
4. From separation to reconciliation.
Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

II. Five facts about salvation:

Eph 2:5 ...(by grace you have been saved),

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

A. Salvation is by His grace (God's part); it cannot be earned by Law keeping or by good deeds of any kind.

Eph 2:5, 8 ...(by grace you have been saved),...For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; (Acts 15:11)

God chose us by grace (Rom 11:5).

God justifies us by grace (Rom 3:24).

We grow spiritually through grace (1 Pet 2:2; 2 Pet 3:18).

We continue our walk with God through grace (Acts 13:43).

Relationship with God is through grace (Heb 4:16).

B. We participate in salvation by faith.

Salvation comes from believing

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, (Mark 16:16; Acts 16:31; 1 Cor 1:21).

Whoever believes in Jesus has eternal life

John 3:15-17 ...For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life... (Jn 3:36; 4:24; 6:40, 47; 11:25-26).

C. Faith doesn't originate from yourself; it isn't from your abilities.

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

The translation reads, "and this not out from you as a source, of God (it is) the gift." That is, salvation is a gift of God. It does not find its source in man (from Wuest's Word Studies)

Phil 1:29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

D. Saving faith is the gift of God.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It is a gift, not a purchase; a free gift, without money and without price; what would never have been yours, but for the generosity of God. It is very usual in the New Testament thus to represent salvation;

cf. our Lord's words to Nicodemus (John 3:16);
to the woman of Samaria (John 4:14);
St. Paul's "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15);
"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23);
and 1 John 5:11, "God gave unto us eternal life, and the life is in his Son."

This usage confirms the view that it is not merely faith, but the whole work and person of Christ which faith receives, that is meant here as the "gift of God." (from The Pulpit Commentary)

E. Saving faith never comes from self-works.

2 Tim 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Gal 2:16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

(Rom 3:20, 27-28; 4:2; 9:11, 16; 11:16)

III. We are redeemed to reign:

A. Seated with Him:

Jesus has won the victory for us. He is now resting, seated next to His Father. He has given us an invitation to sit together with Him next to the Father. Receive His invitation and sit with Him. We don't need to fight within ourselves to live in victory. Since Jesus has given to us victory, all we have to do is simply choose to live in it.

Eph 2:4-6 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

John 12:26 "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

John 14:3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

Rev 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

Col 3:1-3 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Ps 113:7-8 He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the needy from the ash heap, To make them sit with princes, With the princes of His people.

Rev 3:21 "He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

B. We are His workmanship:

This means that He is working in us, we are His project. The key to victorious living is not trying harder. All we must do is trust, rest, relax and allow Him to do His work in and through us. We yield ourselves to the power of His Spirit, for the Holy Spirit longs to live in and through us.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

1 Cor 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

Phil 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Phil 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Heb 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Deut 32:6 Is not He your Father who has bought you? He has made you and established you.

Ps 100:3 Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Ps 138:8 The Lord will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O Lord, is everlasting; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

Isa 29:23 But when he sees his children, the work of My hands, in his midst, They will sanctify My name; Indeed, they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob And will stand in awe of the God of Israel.

Isa 43:21 "The people whom I formed for Myself Will declare My praise.

Isa 44:21 " Remember these things, O Jacob, And Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant, O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me.

Isa 60:21 "Then all your people will be righteous; They will possess the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified.

Isa 61:3 So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

Jer 31:33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, " I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

C. Two facts about being His workmanship:

We are created in Christ Jesus for good works
God has prepared these works for us beforehand