

NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 7/27-28 2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Ephesians 2:4-10

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7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS: CONTINUING IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Mon pm; 85309150746 Tues am!

Topic: Monday 7pm Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
Weekly:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZMlcuGuqj8tHNeJYqMIZbE8IKiMqtpYL88G/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGvpj4iHNCRtx-ERpwEGo_4We7wiClago1Ytib0LixpYCauOslLH6NrAOH8

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Topic: Tuesday 7am Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).
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<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEud-CpqzstHtJOOKSAdUVq16dSqlryu7Iw/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtrTsjG9GVtx2BRpwMA4igXevwmGJagrd3szDOMAFXVzXnZ7RGAaNzAsHF>

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OPENING PRAYER

"HOW GREAT THOU ART" – Shea - Bill Gaither (4:02)

Oh Lord my God when I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made. I see the stars; I hear the rolling thunder Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Refrain: Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee, How great thou art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee! How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When Christ shall come With shout of acclamation and take me home What joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration And there proclaim my God how great Thou art. (Refrain)

WE BEGIN TODAY:

Ephesians 2:4-7 is a mighty statement, one of the grandest and the most exalted, which is to be found anywhere in the whole range of scripture! It is a statement of **what God has done to us in the helplessness and the hopelessness** in which we were in, described in verses 1-3 of this important chapter! Surely there is no more wonderful, no more striking statement of the truth concerning the Christian than that which is to be found in these verses!

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Ephesians 2:4-10

Ephesians 2:4-10 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, [5] even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), [6] and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] that in the ages to come He might

show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, [9] not of works, lest anyone should boast. [10] For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

We now come to look at two wonderful words—‘**But God**’. What can be more wonderful than the way in which, when we see ourselves as we are in sin? We meet this blessed ‘**But**’, a conjunction, yet suggesting a contrast! We are not to simply be amazed and astonished, but we are to learn and realize exactly what God has done for us. Let us look at these two words! We see that He has taken us from the graveyard to the Throne room and He is prepared good works that we should walk in them!

Eph 2:4 But God, (One of the most moving portions of Scripture!)

- ***But God***...The introduction of the Christian message of what the Christian faith has to offer to us. The two words, in a sense contain the whole of the gospel! What **great things** God has done! God’s intervention, which comes entirely from outside us! This is the truth we have here—the real thing, and nothing less than this is the real thing.
- We can say rightly and truly say that we have here one of the most profound statements with respect to the condition and the position of the Christian that can be found anywhere in the Bible.
- There I was, hopelessly lost! Bound by Satan’s power, a slave to Satan and to the flesh and the things of my flesh, ***but God!*** This is Christianity, what has happened is when *we were dead in sins*, God has *raised* (quickened) *us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*. What is described in these words is what God has done to us and for us, and not primarily anything that we have done.
- Yet we must not simply stand amazed and astonished; we must learn and realize exactly what God has done for us. These things are mind bending! They can only be understood through the work of the Holy Spirit! The apostle is concerned that they should appreciate **now** in the midst of all their difficulties what is actually true of them.
- All these wonderful things that God has done for every believer, is available for you now and forever more! But there is a requirement on man’s part – that of

being spiritually born again! To be saved, it's essential that spiritual birth precedes physical death!!

- You may have seen the bumper sticker that sums this up pretty well:
- “**Born once** (physical only, no spiritual rebirth), **die twice** (physically & spiritually):
- **Born twice** (physical and spiritual births), **die once** (physical death only)!”

who is rich (more than merciful!) in mercy, because of His (Rom 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

- As we all were corrupt in our nature, and sinful in our practice, we had no merit, nor any claim upon God. It required much mercy from Him to remove so much misery, and to pardon our transgressions.

great love with which He loved us, (Joh 3:16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life

- God intervened, because of His great love for you! It is the power of God. He was not willing that you should perish. He was not willing that you remain lost! But God, ***rich in mercy!*** The great love where with He loved us!

2Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, (Rom 5:6, 8) For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. [8] But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- God loved you even when you were dead, there in your trespasses, in your sins, alienated from Him, yet God loved you!
- John said,. (***1Jn 4:10***) *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* Paul said, (***Rom 5:8***) *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* Here, he tells us the same thing. Even when we were dead in our sins.

made us alive (hath quickened) together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (Rom 6:4-5) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. [5] For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

- Let us just look at ourselves, and that is not easy! To look at your natural self, apart from God. What a mess we are! We do not like to see that.
- We were dead in our sins; He has made us *alive together*. We are no longer the slaves of sin. It is true that we may still in our folly, listen to the devil. We may still yield to temptation. We may still respond to a sinful impulse, but that does not mean that we are slaves to sin. That is such a glorious truth! God no longer looks at me as one who is in Adam. He **looks at me as one who is in Christ**. I am a new man!
- We are alive to God, sensitive to God, desiring God, loving God, seeking God. Now Alive unto God! The Spirit is now alive. Jesus said that which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. Do not marvel when I say, you have got to be born again! You have got to have the second birth, the birth of the Spirit.
- Being risen with Christ, we are '*alive together with Christ*'. That is the biggest thing you will ever know about yourself, that you are alive unto God, in tune with the Eternal, and have been awakened to something infinite and absolute, '*walking in newness of life*'. What a wonderful phrase! It is the complete contrast to death! We are sharing the life of Christ and becoming more like Him!
- Notice that all the verbs used here are in the **past tense**. He does not say that **God is** going make us alive, **is** going to save us, **is** going to put us to be seated in the heavenly places! Rather, He says that **He has done** so already! **It is already** completed, once and for all!
- Therefore, we must say of ourselves as Christians, that **we have been** made alive, raised, **are** seated in the heavenly places. What God has **done to us spiritually**, says the apostle, is comparable to that **which He did to the Lord Jesus Christ in a physical sense** when He raised Him from the dead and took Him to Himself to be seated in the heavenly places.

Eph 2:6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (Eph 1:20) which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

- Ephesians has been referred to as the Alps of the New Testament. It lifts you up into the heavens. It takes man **from that lowest state and lifts him right up** into the presence of God, in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
- Paul was praying that we might know the exceeding greatness of God's power to us that was manifested in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Raising Jesus up, setting Him at His own right hand in heavenly places, far above all of

the principalities and powers and might and dominions and every name that is named, not only in this world, but in the world to come! Christ, high above!

- **Where are you? Seated together with Christ in these heavenly places.** This is our place, positionally, as believers, as we need to come into it practically. We need to realize what God has done and what God has made available for us. We need to be living above the world and the things of the world. We need to be seated with Christ, living with Him in those heavenly places.
- We sit in the heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**. Since our life and identity is **in Christ**, as He sits in heavenly places, **so do we!**
- Have you been *raised together* with Christ? **Are you alive to God? Have you an awareness of God? Do you know God? Do you desire Him?** These are the vital questions.
- The Christian is **one who is risen with Christ from the realm of sin and death to a new life** in which he is *alive together with Christ!*

*and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **that** in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in (through) Christ Jesus.*

Eph 2:7 **that** (purpose of God)

- Now we are getting into the purposes of God, the future, the eternal purposes! God's grace is so rich toward you, His kindnesses so marvelous and so abundant, that it will take all of eternity to reveal its fullness! The exceeding riches of His grace and kindness toward you through Christ Jesus. Throughout the ages to come, He is going to be revealing this!
- **that** - Why has God done all this? What was it that led God to do all this for creatures such as we are? We see the answer here.
- *The chief end, intent, and object of salvation is the glory of God, the greatness and the character of God the greatness and the glory of God comes to pass through the Church.* He has done all this in order that He may present a spectacle to all future ages, not only in this world but also in that which is to come. God is going to going to manifest His own glory.
- We learn certain things about God in this whole movement of salvation and redemption which we would never have known otherwise.
- Through His redeeming of fallen man, **He has displayed certain attributes** of His holy being and nature and character- His **mercy**, His **love**, His **grace** and His *kindness*, **which otherwise could never be known, but now certainly are known.**

- God is going to **demonstrate and vindicate His own eternal wisdom and His majesty and His glory and all the attributes of His holy Person to the principalities and the heavenly powers**. This is the intent of salvation, that **all this might be done to the demonstration** of the character and the glory of God.

in the ages (*ages coming upon ages, ages coming on ages...ongoing continuance*) **to come**

- When we first enter into His presence in that eternal state, and we are so enthralled with the glory, with the wonder, the awesomeness of dwelling there with God, that we will be so enthralled that the first ten trillion years will just pass by like almost a breath. And we will think, oh surely, this is all there is. There cannot be any more than this. This is so glorious! This is so wonderful! And we think that we have seen it all and we know it all.
- Think like God will turn the page on a never-ending book. With each page think of another several trillion years in **a whole new vista, completely different, more glorious than the previous, as He is revealing the exceeding riches of His grace and kindness**.
- *in the ages to come* ... Just think that's it throughout the endless ages to come! Never ending! Oh, how great are *the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in* (through) *Christ Jesus*.
- What glory that is going to be! Whenever I think of eternity, I think, how foolish for a man to sacrifice that eternal kingdom of God for a moment of pleasure in sin, while he is living on this planet Earth.

He might show the exceeding riches of His grace (for His own purposes) ***in His kindness toward us in*** (through) ***Christ Jesus***.

(Tit 3:4) But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

- Jesus said, what would it profit a man if he gained the whole world but lost his own soul? Surely the most important thing in our lives, is establishing the security of our eternal future. That is done through faith in Jesus Christ. God, through the **endless ages to come, will be showing to us the exceeding riches of His grace and His kindness towards us through Christ Jesus!**
- Questions: Have you been made alive with Christ. Are you born again? Do sense a new spiritual disposition in what you do? If not, then seek after God until you can answer affirmatively.

- Have you been raised with Christ so that your orientation is now heavenly, rather than being only earth bound? Are you living for Him and representing wherever He has you?
- Do you see yourself seated with God in Christ in the heavenly realm? Have you made your true, blessed and intimate home with God? Do you talk to Him there? Does He talk to you? If we are enjoying that intimacy with Him, we will no longer set our affection on things on this earth, but on God's glory

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved

(Rom 4:16) Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all

through faith, and that (salvation) ***not of yourselves;*** *(2Ti 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 given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*

it is the gift of God, *(Joh 1:12-13) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: [13] who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

- By grace! Grace is unearned, undeserved favor, blessing! There is no way that you can earn your salvation. There is no work that you can do to earn eternal life. It is a gift of God. None of us deserve it! There are no rules that you can keep that will qualify you. It is God's gift. It has to be received as a gift. The gift of God, His glorious grace. ***For by grace you have been saved.*** And this is ***through your faith*** in the promises of God and our faith in Jesus Christ.
- For salvation is ***not of yourselves.*** When the rich young ruler had come to Jesus seeking the way of eternal life, and after Jesus had dealt with him. He went away sorrowful because he was very wealthy. Jesus said to His disciples, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God. They said, Lord, who then can be saved, if it is so difficult? He said, with men it is impossible.
- Know that! Salvation is impossible with man! But Jesus said, with God, all things are possible. God has provided eternal life, salvation for us. We cannot earn it, but it is God gift to you, through faith in Jesus Christ. Not of your works. Aren't you glad? No doubt about it now or forever! He wants you to be secure! He wants to stand!

Eph 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should (Rom 4:4-5) Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. [5] But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, (Rom 11:6) And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

boast. (Rom 3:27) Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

- If I could earn my salvation, when I got to heaven, I would be showing you all the gold stars for the things I have done. Look at me. Look at how many stars I got. Heaven would one big miserable bragging session! Because of my bragging, you would say, be quiet, I want to tell you what I did. And we would all be boasting in our own works.
- But it is ***not of works, lest anyone should boast!*** The Scripture tells us, "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS." ! Now if Abraham was accounted righteous through his works, *he has something to boast about, but not before God.* Because salvation is through grace and faith in Jesus Christ, it eliminates boasting.
- I cannot boast of anything! All I can do is give glory to Jesus Christ and say, oh, praise the Lord!
- I was a lost sinner. I was walking according to the course of this world. I was living after the lust of my flesh and the lust of my mind. I was, by nature, a child of wrath, but Jesus reached down. He lifted me up out of the miry clay. He washed me off. He set my feet upon the solid rock and now I stand in Him in heavenly places! Praise the Lord! Glory to God! He did it, you know!
- And the glory all goes to Jesus, which is proper and right, which is God's desire and purpose that Jesus receives glory and honor and praise. He is the One who emptied Himself from the pre-incarnate glory that He had with the Father, the One who came as a servant, obedient unto death, even the death on the cross, wherefore God has also highly exalted Him. He has given Him a name above every name. That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord to the glory of God the Father! That no flesh should glory in His sight.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship (*poiema*),

- ***His workmanship!*** We are God's workmanship! We are God's handiwork. It is not my works for God that count or that are meaningful. It is His! It is God's works for me that is truly meaningful. God is the Workman. God is the One

who is fashioning. It is a wonderful picture of God as a kind of Artist. As in **(Rom 1:20)** ...*things that are made (poiema)*... God's creation is not static but is active; is preaching a sermon! **(Psa 19.1a)** *The heavens declare the glory of God.*

- **workmanship** (*poiema*) – A poem. Think of the picture of these terms, their contrasting relationship; “poet-poem”; “potter-clay”; “builder-under construction”; “artist-canvas” Here God is the Poet. We are the poem! God is the Potter. We are the clay! We are His poem!
- The picture invites us to think of God as in some great workshop and asks us to watch Him forming and fashioning and bringing something into being. It is entirely the result of the activity of God.
- There is nothing more wonderful than this! I am something that has been brought into being, something fashioned by God Himself, that I am like clay in the hands of the potter.
- I must stop thinking of it simply in terms of what I do and am doing, but rather think of it in terms of what God is doing to me, that I am in the hands of the great Maker, in the hands of the Creator, and that He is working in me and upon me. How does God do this work?
- It is in and through the Lord Jesus Christ: ‘created in Christ Jesus’! That is always the case. God makes us Christians by applying and mediating to us, that which He has done for us in Christ. It is in Him, in His Person. It is ‘of His fulness that we receive, and grace for grace’.
- We receive the benefits of His death; of His life; of His very life itself. All good comes to us from Christ. That is how God does it. He has sent forth His Son, then He brings us to the Son. He forms the Lord Jesus Christ in us. That is what He is doing: He is forming Christ in us. **(Gal 4:19)** *My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you.* We are at this point altogether outside the realm of our little works and decencies and moralities. Christ is being formed in me!
- You are His workmanship, meaning God wants to express Himself in you! **(2Co 3:18)** *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.* God wants you to be an expression of Him.

created in Christ Jesus for (unto) good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- Our salvation is not of our works. It is by grace through faith. But as God works in me, He prepares me and is continuing to prepare me for the good works that He would have me to do for His glory. Not for salvation but works

that have to do with the expression of my appreciation for God's love and God's grace to me.

- It is my response to God. Because of God's tremendous love for me, I respond to Him! We often are trying to make God respond to us. But God is not the responder! God is the initiator! We are the responder.
- God initiated His love for me. I respond to that love. God initiated His grace toward me. I respond to that grace. That is why it is so important that we come to know God. We know how loving He is and how much He loves you! And as we come to know this great love that God has for us, then we respond to that love. Then we love Him because He first loved us.
- Now as God is working in us, He is preparing us for the good works that He has already determined that we should accomplish for Him. God has your future all mapped out and designed. God knows exactly the work that He wants you to accomplish for His kingdom. When God created you, He had a purpose for your life, an eternal purpose for your life. He had plans for you, the works that you should accomplish for His glory.
- The highest calling of God is whatever God has called you to be! It is being what God wants you to be, where God wants you to be, doing what God would have you to do.
- In your body there are many parts. Every part of the body has a function. Not all are the eye or the ear or the hands, the fingers, but it is important that each part of the body fulfill its function in the body in order that the body might properly fulfill its purposes.
- In the same way, each believer is a part of God's handiwork, His *poiema*. God is preparing us for the good works that He has before ordained, that we walk in them.
- As we look back, we can see how that God was preparing us from the beginning. Even from birth, as Paul said, (*Gal 1:15*) *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,*
- For what are we created? For good works. When we get to the latter part of this epistle, we will be told how we are to walk in a way that is creditable and acceptable to God. While we are seated in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus, we are to walk down here on earth in a way that will bring glory to His name.
- It is a part of God's design that we be prepared unto good works. If you think that you can abstract forgiveness only from the plan of salvation, you completely misunderstand the plan.
- When God looked upon you and loved you and began to work in you to make you a Christian, He had already prepared the works which you should live and

perform. There is no such thing as faith without works ‘Faith without works is dead.’ The proof of faith is works.

- There is no value in a profession of Christianity unless it is accompanied by a desire to be like Christ, a desire to be rid of sin, a desire after positive holiness. According to this verse it is essential. *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.* He is making us for that. God works in us to produce this result.
- The final test of whether God is working in us is that we desire to be more and more like Christ, holy and pure, separate from the world and from sin, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, that we may please the God who has thus begun to work in us.
- Is that you? Currently what are these results in our lives? Am I bringing God glory through my life?
- Is my life a demonstration of the richness of His mercy? His great love? His salvation by His saving grace through faith? His kindness? His workmanship in me?
- Am I fighting being molded and shaped? Am I desiring holiness? Am I glorifying God?

Closing Prayer

Please read and meditate on the balance of Ephesians Chapter 2:11-18