

“But God”

Ephesians 2:4-7

August 3, 2025

DAY 1: Made us alive!

1. Let's review last week's study:

*Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following **the prince of the power of the air, the spirit** that is now at work in the **sons of disobedience**—³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind.*

2. Man's dire condition: I was **dead** in sin, I was **disobedient** toward God, I was **depraved** (by nature, self-centered, following my cravings), a condition I cannot change in and of myself. I was **doomed**.

3. What strikes you from our former spiritual state?

4. After hearing such a bleak picture of the dark side of our human nature, notice how Paul begins the very next section of verses!!

*Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, because of His great love for us, who is rich in mercy, **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

5. “But God.”

“These two words, in and of themselves, in a sense contain the whole of the gospel.” D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

6. The picture is as bleak as it was for the designer of the Titanic, who had proudly declared his boat to be unsinkable. The only difference between his predicament and ours is that the Titanic had some lifeboats. We had none.

7. God is sovereign: God is actively working in human history to bring people to Himself. This world, though once perfect, fell due to human sin. God works in a fallen world due to sin, to conduct a rescue operation, a search and rescue mission.

8. God is holy: God does not turn away from issues of right and wrong, justice and injustice, righteousness and sin. It is because He is holy that He planned a way to save us in spite of our sin nature! God is a God of wrath against sin: Sin will be punished; righteousness will be exalted.

9. Do you remember the graveyard image from last week? Dead men walking? The zombie image? We can no more give ourselves spiritual life than a corpse is able to give itself life.

10. The life of Christ raised us from spiritual death, and now infuses us with real life both in us and through us to others!

11. What strikes you from today's devotions?

DAY 2: Raised us up!

*Ephesians 2:6 And God **raised us up** with Christ ...*

1. We were dead in trespasses. To that awful predicament God made us alive in Christ!! The life of Christ, His joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, alive in me, and through me!

2. The imagery of being raised up comes on the heels of the imagery of a cemetery, a graveyard, where no one can get up.

3. God does the impossible, having given us real life, now raises us out of our grave!

4. Being dead can mean feeling lifeless, which serves as a metaphor for many of our human conditions. See how many of the following examples where you have been “lifeless”:

- a. A lifeless marriage,
- b. Depressed,
- c. Feeling hopeless,
- d. Discouraged,
- e. A sense of futility. Why try anymore?
- f. Feeling like a failure,
- g. Defeated, “on the mat”,
- h. Feeling immobilized,

*Psalms 40:3 **He put a new song in my mouth**, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.*

*1 Samuel 2:8 **He raises the poor** from the dust and **lifts the needy from the ash heap**; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor.*

5. We are raised up to face life as it really is, no matter how difficult.

6. Because we now carry the very life of Christ in us, we always have enough resources inside us to meet whatever is in front of us with the purpose of honoring God in how we live and being a blessing to others, allowing the life and love of God to impact people in our lives.

7. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 3: Seated us with Him!

Ephesians 2:6 ...and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus ...

1. As was true in Ephesians 1, Paul reminds of what God has done for us!!!
2. We are (and were seated with Him) seated with Him. Theologians describe this as our “position in Christ.”

3. What does it mean to be seated with Him in the heavenly realms?

- a. We are no longer under the threat of wrath for our sins—past, present, or future!

*Ephesians 2:3 ...we **were** by nature children of wrath.* (past tense).

- b. We no longer live with the fear of somehow messing up or losing our salvation! (Remember back in Eph.1 that we were sealed!)

- c. Satan can’t steal away our salvation.

- d. When we still sin, we no longer need to deal with guilt for more than a few seconds. Our simple confession of sin gives us fresh forgiveness and fresh cleansing (1 John 1:9).

- e. When Satan tries to shame us with our current struggle with sin, we need never feel like we are on shaky ground. Shame need never be a part of our daily life.

- f. The imagery of being “seated with Him,” means that I am an honored guest, His guest, not just at the head table or at his table, but right at His side! It’s not “just” that He has paid our penalty. He also wants us with Him as His treasured member of His family.

- g. All of these things should anchor us, fortify us, and give us confidence in God that enables to face the difficult challenges and people in life.

4. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 4: God loves you; He offers you mercy

1. God loves you!

*Ephesians 2:4 But God, because of **His great love for us**....*

2. Nothing in this week's passage puts any pressure on us.

3. Paul simply calls us to remember what our great God has done for us, who He is, and how He thinks about us!

4. God's love is not the kind of love a teacher has who "loves" teaching. It's not a generic love like my dog "loves" everybody, especially if you have some food in your hand or will take him to the park. God's love is the most personal love you'll ever experience. God loves *you*!

God offers you mercy.

*Ephesians 2:4 But God ... who is **rich in mercy**,*

5. When I was in Jr. Hi, two eighth grade boys would usually have a fight, off campus, up on "the hill." The fight lasted until the one losing would call out "mercy" or "uncle." What he meant was that he no longer believed he had any chance of winning, and that continuing to fight would only inflict more damage on himself.

6. The one winning the fight would offer mercy. He could have punished the loser of the fight more than he already had.

Mercy means the just punishment that was earned will not be inflicted.

7. Notice how Paul describes God's mercy! What strikes you about His mercy?

8. Most Christians' understanding of God stops with His forgiveness of us. "I am forgiven."

9. We should also be thankful for God's mercy! Mercy is the refusal to prosecute a just punishment. If God had been "fair" not a one of us would be alive at this moment. Punishment would have swept us away.

10. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5: God offers you grace and kindness

God offers you grace.

*Ephesians 2:4-5 But God ...made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is **by grace are you saved**.*

*Ephesians 2:7 ...in order that in the coming ages He might show **the incomparable riches of His grace**,*

1. Grace is simply favor given to the undeserving.

God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

2. "There is no cause in us why God should have acted as He did. We think the opposite. We think God owes us something. Even after we become Christians we often find ourselves thinking in these terms. 'God owes everyone at least a chance'.... Or when God fails to do something we think He should do, we say, 'It just isn't fair.' So long as we think that way we do not understand grace. Grace is God's favor to the utterly undeserving." -James Montgomery Boice

3. What strikes you about God's grace?

God offers you kindness.

*Ephesians 2:7 ...in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, **expressed in His kindness** to us in Christ Jesus.*

4. After I sin, I sometimes feel foolish or disgusted. I can easily get down on myself, and my pride sometimes wants to make a big deal out of my failure. Do you easily wallow in this same little puddle? For some reason, we assume that God wants us to act that way, to do some kind of "penance." That is laughable!

5. All that's been taken care of at the cross! Christ did not die *just* for my sin *before* I became a Christian. He died for all of it, that which I'd already done, and that which I have yet to do.

6. If you think you need to wallow, you've missed the point! **The point is the demonstration of His kindness to you!! His prevailing attitude is simply kindness!**

7. What strikes you from today's devotional?