



TITLE:

Ephesians 2:4-7 - The Present and Future Condition of God's Workmanship

INTRODUCTION:

- Ephesians 2:1-10 is the third section of the doctrinal content of the Ephesians.
- This section contains Paul's illustration of God's workmanship.
 - o The word workmanship (ποίημα - poiēma) means a product.
 - o It is translated as "things that are made" in Romans 1:20 which refers to God's creation that was created in 6 literal days.
 - o Employing the same meaning, believers are God's creation created in Christ Jesus.
 - o He explained God's workmanship by illustrating the believer's past, present, and future conditions.
- Past Condition - The believers were dead in trespasses and sins showing their sinful manner of life and nature.
 - o Sinful Manner of Life:
 - o Walking according to the course of this world (2:2).
 - o Walking according to the prince of the power of the air (2:2).
 - o Having a conversation in the lusts of the flesh (2:3).
 - o Sinful in Nature
 - o Children of Disobedience (2:2).
 - o Children of Wrath (2:3).
- Between our past condition and present condition is God's intervention (2:4).
 - o "But God" – In spite of our past condition God Who is rich in mercy, greatly loved the believers.

PRESENT CONDITION (2:5-6)

- Paul described the present condition of God's workmanship (the position of the believers) in three verbs:
 - o Spiritual Life: hath quickened us together (συζωοποιέω - syzōopoieō)
 - Made alive from being dead in sins.
 - o Resurrection: hath raised us up together (συνεγείρω - synegeirō)
 - Raised up
 - o Enthronement: made us sit together (συγκαθίζω - sygkathizō)
 - Made to sit in heavenly places
- These words are all in the active voice.
 - o God in 2:4 is the subject or the doer and the believers are the object of the verbs.
 - o It indicates that salvation is 100% of God.
 - o It is not of ourselves nor any man's work (2:8-9).
- These words are all in the aorist tense.
 - o It indicates that these are all completed actions in the past.
 - o However, the verb "saved" (σῳσμένοι - sesōsmenoi) is in the perfect passive participle indicating that the believers are currently enjoying the salvation previously given to them.
- These verbs are all compound verbs - verbs combined with prepositions "with" (σύν - syn).
 - o It indicates that these actions happened with, alongside, or together with Jesus Christ.
 - o In 1:20, God the Father raised Jesus Christ from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places.
 - Together with Christ, God raised the believers from the dead (spiritual life and resurrection).
 - Together with Christ, God set the believers in the heavenly places (enthronement).
 - o Together with:
 - Eternal Son of God
 - Second Person of the Triune God
 - Creator of all things
 - By Him, all things consist
 - King of kings, Lord of lords

- It is what baptism symbolizes.
 - A person who repents toward God and puts his faith in the finished work of Christ becomes alive and resurrected from the dead.
- This is God's exceeding power to the believers that Paul was praying for the Ephesians believers to know (1:19).
 - This tells us that believers by default don't know the salvation God gave to them.
- Salvation:
 - In this context, salvation is saving:
 - From our past condition which is being dead in trespasses and sins
 - To our present condition which quickened, raised, and made sit together with Christ.
 - Salvation is by grace (2:5, 8).
 - Grace is God's kindness which He bestows upon us that we do not deserve.

FUTURE CONDITION (2:7)

- Paul described the future condition of God's workmanship by showing His purpose in saving us.
- God saved us so that He might show or display the exceeding riches of His grace in the ages to come.
- The "ages to come" refer to the eternity to come.
- The verb "he might shew" is in subjunctive mood showing that this is the purpose why God:
 - Made the believers accepted in Christ (1:6).
 - Redeem the believers through the blood of Christ (1:7).
 - Saved the believers (2:5).
- God's grace is exceedingly rich.
 - We cannot fully comprehend the vastness and infiniteness of God's grace in this life, but we will see it in eternity.
 - This grace is based on His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.
- The believers are the objects or trophies of God's grace for all eternity.
 - On the other hand, those who reject God's grace will be publicly displayed as well for all eternity. Compare Isa. 66:23-24.
 - Each time, we perceive ourselves as saved and redeemed, we will continually behold the exceeding riches of God's grace in His kindness toward us.

CHALLENGE:

- Salvation is described as a gift of God. Would you receive it today?
 - How to receive this gift?
 - Through repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Saving faith includes biblical repentance. Biblical repentance includes saving faith.
- This is God's exceeding power to the believers that Paul was praying for the Ephesians believers to know (1:19).
 - We should continually grow knowing this thing.
- Colossians 3:1-3
 - If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.