

Identity 7: Ephesians 2:5-9

This is how grace rescued us: sin left us dead towards God, like spiritual corpses; yet in that state of deadness and indifference, God co-quickened us together with Christ. Sin proved how dead we were (the law confirmed it!). Grace reveals how alive we now are (the gospel announced it!). Before anyone but God believed it, he made us alive together with him and raised us up together with him. (We had no contribution to our salvation! God's master-plan unfolded in the mystery of the gospel declaring our joint inclusion in Christ's death and resurrection; GOD FOUND US IN CHRIST BEFORE HE LOST US IN ADAM! In the economy of God, when Jesus died we died. God saw us in Christ, in his death and resurrection before we saw ourselves there! He declared our co-resurrection with Christ 800 BC! [Hos. 6:2]) [Eph 2:5](#)

What on earth is Francois du Toit talking about here saying that God declared our co-resurrection with Christ in 800 BC? First, understand that the plan of redemption has always been God's plan. We discussed this a bit in week 2 of this school. The first fall was Lucifer with a 1/3 of the angels. God created man with the intent that man would participate in the final destruction of the enemy by believing in Jesus the Christ, God in the flesh, and then expanding His kingdom consuming all others until the return of Christ. After 1,000 years of reigning with Him, the enemy is let out for a brief period (because God is just and shortened the time for the elect's sake) and attempts once more to overthrow God. His punishment is destruction by fire and then cast into the lake of fire forever. After his final destruction, a new heaven and earth is made that no longer has any corruption of the enemy and his influence at all. And, so, with this in mind, God had a plan BEFORE the fall of mankind, BEFORE the foundation of the world to redeem mankind through the free gift of salvation. But He needed a people that chose Him, which is why He put the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the middle of the Garden of Eden. If man did NOT have a freewill then the enemy could cry, "Foul!"

God always speaks then releases. I love this quote I heard recently on "Destiny Dashboard" by Lance Wallnau. It says, "We live in a voice-activated universe." God spoke and activated creation. BEFORE GOD DOES ANYTHING IN THE NATURAL, HE CREATES IT BY RELEASING ITS SOUND. For thousands of years from the prophecy of the Seed that would crush Satan's rule until the coming of the Lord, God released His plan literally creating it for us in the natural.

[Ephesians 2:5](#) is explaining that Jesus Christ died for us so that He could IN HIMSELF raise us up in Him. We were co-resurrected with Him when He was raised from the dead almost 2,000 years ago. You see why it was necessary for Him to die BECAUSE WE WERE DEAD in our sin. But in the resurrection, we WERE RESURRECTED from sin. [Hosea 6:2](#) speaks of this event.

[Hosea 6:2](#) (NKJV)

² After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight. This is why Francois paraphrased it by saying, "Before ANYONE BUT GOD BELIEVED IT, He made us alive together with him and raised us up together with him." Listen to the Wuest commentary on this:

This takes us to [Romans 6:3, 4](#), "Or, do you not know that as many as were placed into Christ Jesus (by the Holy Spirit), into His death were placed. We were entombed therefore with Him through this aforementioned placing into His death, in order that just as there was raised up Christ out from amongst the dead ones through the glory of the Father, thus also as for us, in the newness of a life (imparted) we may order our behavior." This newness of life is a new life imparted through our identification with Christ in His resurrection. Our identification with Christ in His death broke the power of indwelling sin. Our identification with Him in His resurrection resulted in the impartation of divine life. This is what Paul has reference to when he says, "We were made alive together with Him."

Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament - Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament – Volume 1.

Dennis Reanier talks about this in his book, "Shaking Heaven and Earth" by saying that God has given us THE VERY LIFE OF CHRIST HIMSELF, THE SAME NEW LIFE WITH WHICH HE QUICKED HIM"

meaning OUR SPIRIT WAS QUICKENED TO LIFE WITH THE EXACT SAME SUBSTANCE AND LIFE OF CHRIST HIMSELF. He states, "It wasn't a copy or part of His substance and life, but it is the VERY SAME NEW LIFE WAS WHEN CHRIST was quickened from the dead!" He goes on and says, "Sin, sickness, poverty, fear, failure and death no longer have authority over us in Christ. We were delivered from judgment to partake in Christ's salvation at a time in the past." I.e. all of this was finished for us AT HIS RESURRECTION! **WHEN WE WERE BORN AGAIN, WE SIMPLY STEPPED INTO THIS REALITY IN OUR SPIRIT-MAN. NOW WE MUST EDUCATE OUR MIND, WILL, AND EMOTIONS TO THIS REALITY SO WE CAN COME INTO AGREEMENT (OR FAITH) WITH IT AND BEGIN TO SEE RESULTS!**

Dennis goes on to explain that being RAISED UP TOGETHER was a past tense accomplished process just like being resurrected together. This means that just as Christ sat down at the right hand of the Father, so HE MADE US SIT DOWN TOGETHER WITH HIM at a TIME PAST! I like the following statement, **"No amount of work on our part will help us to accomplish the things that He has already completed on our behalf. We have already been raised up with Him and we have already been seated with Him!"** He made us to share in HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. This means that as you simply SEE & DO, you do the SAME AND GREATER WORKS and are as CHRIST WAS ON EARTH.

Dennis goes on to say, "It is important to understand that we will never be any more raised or seated with Christ than we are right now! Jesus is the head and we are the body of Christ, seated together at the right hand of the Father in a place of fellowship, acceptance, and power operating in the EXACT SAME AUTHORITY!" **WE ARE NOW TO REIGN IN THIS LIFE.**

Romans 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) We are to RULE AS KINGS EXPANDING DOMINION THROUGH THE GIFTS AND CALLINGS OF GOD GIVEN TO EACH OF US INDIVIDUALLY. Reign also means TO ENJOY THE HONOR AND PROSPERITY OF KINGS. **A quick question: have you noticed how when the wealth get sick with a disease such as pancreatic cancer or AIDS that they live longer even decades longer than the "average" person? THE REASON FOR THIS IS WEALTH OPENS DOORS TO RESOURCES AND INFLUENCE THAT THE PERSON IN POVERTY OR EVEN MIDDLE CLASS DOES NOT HAVE. We, as kings, are to enjoy wealth and influence that gives us access to divine health, peace, power, dominion, etc. that others do not have. AND AS WE BUILD WEALTH UNDER GOD'S BLUEPRINT DESIGN, WE GAIN INFLUENCE OVER CITIES, MARKETS, STATES, AND EVEN NATIONS. We must begin thinking as kings not paupers.**

Ephesians 2:5 (NKJV)

⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Listen to the Wuest commentary on this verse:

Now comes the interjection, "by grace ye are saved." We have here in the Greek what is called a periphrastic construction. This is used when the writer cannot get all of the details of action from one verbal form. So he uses two, a finite verb and a participle. The participle here is in the perfect tense, which tense speaks of an action that took place in past time and was completed in past time, having results existent in present time. The translation reads, "By grace have you been completely saved, with the present result that you are in a saved state of being." The perfect tense speaks of the *existence* of finished results in present time. But Paul is not satisfied with showing the *existence* of finished results in present time. He wants to show the *persistence* of results *through* present time. So he uses the verb "to be" in the present tense which gives durative force to the finished results.

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Our initial act of faith in Christ for salvation *JUSTIFIED* us (removing all guilt and shame), *SANCTIFIED* us (taking the believer OUT OF THE FIRST ADAM and placing in the LAST ADAM) with righteousness

and life, and PROGRESSIVELY eliminating sin from the experience of the believer producing His fruit as we are transformed into the image of Christ IN OUR SOUL--MIND, WILL & EMOTIONS--resulting in *GLORIFICATION*.

But God, being wealthy in the sphere of mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, and we being dead with respect to our trespasses, made us alive together with the Christ, by grace have you been saved completely in past time, with the present result that you are in a state of salvation which persists through present time, and raised us with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

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Let's read verse 7:

(In a single triumphant act of righteousness God saved us from the "GUTTERMOST" to the uttermost. Here we are now, revealed in Christ in the highest possible position of bliss! If man's sad history could not distract from the extravagant love of God,) imagine how God is now able for timeless perpetuity (eternal future) to exhibit the trophy of the wealth of his grace demonstrated in His kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. **GRACE EXHIBITS EXCESSIVE EVIDENCE OF THE SUCCESS OF THE CROSS.**

The NKJV says:

[Ephesians 2:7](#) (NKJV)

⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Remember that the motivation of God's redemptive plan was TO SATISFY HIS LOVE for us. And now for ALL AGES the EXCESSIVE EVIDENCE OF HIS GRACE will be displayed and the incredible SUCCESS OF THE CROSS. The enemy has had the testimony for 5,775 years that he caused man to disobey God in a perfect, sinless environment in the garden. BUT GOD'S TESTIMONY FOR ALL AGES IS THAT MAN CHOSE HIM IN AN IMPERFECT SINFUL ENVIRONMENT. And for the ages that roll one upon the other for eternity, God's will exhibit His kindness to us FOR HIS OWN GLORY. **DO YOU SEE THAT HIS KINDNESS TOWARD US BRINGS GLORY TO HIM?!** Kindness means usefulness.

Kindness is an important word. It is the kindness of the dove but not the wisdom of the serpent. It does not necessarily ENTAIL ACTS OF GOODNESS meaning that IF KINDNESS IS NOT BALANCED WITH GOODNESS, IT CAN ENABLE PEOPLE TO STAY IN AN INFERIOR SINFUL STATE. Goodness often reveals itself IN SHARPNESS AND REBUKE. We see this in the Lord methodically creating the whip to run the moneychangers out. GOODNESS IS KINDNESS WITH WISDOM IN ACTION. This means that the kindness shown toward us will be for eternity because once all is over REBUKE AND SHARPNESS are not necessary. **ALL THE ACTIONS REQUIRED FOR OUR GOOD, INCLUDING SHARPNESS AND REBUKE, WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETE. For this reason, we should embrace these things now so that our future rank is secure!**

Your salvation is not a reward for good behavior! It was a GRACE THING from start to finish; you had no hand in it. Even the GIFT TO BELIEVE reflects his. (BY GRACE YOU ARE! Saved by the gift of faith; grace reveals who we are, and the faith of God PERSUADES US OF IT! You did not invent faith; it was God's faith to begin with! It is from faith to faith, [[Rom. 1:17](#)]. He is both the SOURCE and CONCLUSION of faith. [[Heb. 12:2](#)]) If this could be accomplished through any action of yours then there would be ground for boasting. [Eph. 2:8-9](#)

[Matthew 19:16-17](#) (NKJV)

¹⁶ Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

¹⁷ So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

For years I have pondered why Jesus asked this man why he called Him good and then stated that no one is good but One, that is God. For one, the man addressed the Lord as "Good Teacher," meaning he only recognized Him as a Rabbi not the Messiah or even a prophet; therefore, Jesus was addressing this fallacy that ANY MAN IS GOOD. This is very, very important. Many refuse the invitation to be born again because they believe THEY ARE A GOOD PERSON. Being good is an intrinsic quality that is not gained or learned but just is within. **THE ONLY ONE THAT POSSESSES THIS INTRINSIC QUALITY IS GOD.** Why? Because man fell and lost the nature of God, which was only regained in Christ and belongs to those who are now born again--**BY GRACE YOU ARE** or **BY GRACE YOU EXIST** in this new state. Even the faith used to be born again is from God. We didn't possess it in our fallen state but now with Christ's Spirit in us and His nature, we are good. And it for this reason that **NONE OF THIS COULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN OUR FALLEN STATE. THE FACT THAT HE SAW US IN THE STATE WE WERE WITHOUT ANY WAY TO RESCUE OURSELVES FROM OUR OWN MESS AND THEN NOT ONLY SAVED US BUT MADE US LIKE HIS SON SEATING US WITH HIM IS ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE!**

ASSIGNMENT?