

Seated In Heavenly Places

A study in the book of Ephesians

Lesson Two

“Our Spiritual Position in Christ”

We ended lesson one with Paul declaring to us the mighty power of God in resurrecting Jesus from the dead. He begins chapter two by declaring to us what Christ’s resurrection power means to us. We, who were once *spiritually* dead, have now been “made *spiritually* alive.”

Read prayerfully through Ephesians, chapter two.

1. In verses 2 and 3, Paul reminds us of who and what we once were. Record what these verses say about our past life before we came to Christ.
2. In verses 4 and 5, Paul describes what God did for us, even when we were still dead in our trespasses. What does the last half of verse 5 tell us God did?
 - a. What does verse 4 tell us His motivation was?
3. How important it is for us to be reminded of who we were without Christ, in order to come to a full appreciation of what He has done for us. Some of us may look back on our past life and cringe with the reminder of the lifestyle we were once involved in. Some may not have had as sordid a past as others, but there is one thing we all had in common concerning our lives before Christ. Jump down to verse 12 and, looking at the last part of that verse, record what it says our condition was.

4. In contrast, God has now resurrected our spiritually dead lives, together with Christ. How does Paul describe this to the Galatian believers in **Galatians 2:20**?

5. After God made us alive together with Christ, He then did something so amazingly remarkable it's hard for us to grasp. What does verse 6 tell us He did for us?

6. This is now the present position of every believer in Christ. We have a new identity, a new existence, a new lifestyle, a new perspective, a new vantage point, a new mindset in which we live and move. For greater insight into this verse, look up Romans 8:17a; Colossians 3:1-4 and Philippians 3:20. Record what these verses say to us about our **new position in Christ**.

Romans 8:17a:

Colossians 3:1-4:

Philippians 3:20:

Adam Clarke says in his commentary, “**And now we *sit in heavenly places* – we have a *right to the kingdom of God, anticipate this glory, and are indescribably happy in the possession of this salvation, and in our fellowship with Christ Jesus.*” (Clarke)**

7. Looking at verse 7, God “has raised us up, and seated us in heavenly places in Christ,” so that from **this position**, from this **vantage point**, what has He promised to continue to show us?
 - a. This not only implies how inexhaustible and “exceeding” beyond our imagination the riches of His grace are, but that we will be discovering them throughout all eternity. What does 1 Corinthians 2:9 tell us about the riches of His grace toward us?

8. Verse 8 reiterates what Paul said in the last part of verse 5. Write down verse 8 below.
9. As we consider this amazing position we have in Christ, Paul wants to make sure we understand that we are in this position because of no merit of our own. The Lord did not “choose” us because we were in any way worthy of that choice. We did nothing to earn this position. We had no resume that caught His eye, no achievements or skills or experience that drew Him to us. His choosing us and making a plan for our salvation was born out of a love so great, we will never comprehend it. The fact that the **grace itself** is a gift points us to the understanding that this gift of salvation we have received is a gift given to the **undeserving**. Look up Titus 3:3-7. *In your own words*, paraphrase what Paul says to Titus in these verses.

10. In verse 9 of Ephesians, chapter two, what is the reason Paul gives at the end of this verse for why it is so important for us to understand that our salvation in Christ is a gift of undeserved favor?

11. Pride in ourselves is one of the things God hates. Look up the following verses and jot down what each says about man’s pride. Proverbs 16:18; Proverbs 18:12; Proverbs 21:4; Proverbs 29:23; 1 John 2:16.

Proverbs 16:18:

Proverbs 18:12:

Proverbs 21:4:

Proverbs 29:23:

1 John 2:16:

12. What does verse 10 say about our true identity? Fill in the blanks below (note: I am using the NKJV).

For we are His _____, created in Christ Jesus for _____, which God _____ that we should _____ in them.

- a. Whose workmanship are we?
- b. For what purpose has God created this workmanship?
- c. When did God prepare this purpose for us?
- d. To what end result did He create this plan?

13. One of the “mysteries” of the church, and God’s plan for salvation is seen in our next verse. Carefully read through verses 11 through 22.

Beginning in Genesis and throughout the Old Testament we see God setting Israel apart as His own special people; a people group He chose to reveal Himself to and work through. In the Jewish mind, there were only two groups of people: themselves, as God’s chosen people, and everybody else, who were NOT God’s chosen people. It was to them that God gave His commandments and instructions, and it was to them that God made a covenant and gave His promises.

Paul reminds us of this in these verses. What does he say about us in verse 11?

14. In verse 12, what does he say our condition was?

15. How does verse 13 explain what the blood of Christ did to change our condition?

16. Looking at verses 14 through 16, what were the results of this change in our condition?

17. Verse 17 says Christ came and preached peace to you (the Gentiles) who were afar off, and to those who were near (the Jews). What did this peace that Christ preached produce for us? See verse 18 and record what it says.

18. Verse 19 tells us we are now no longer strangers and foreigners, outside of God's people and His family. What does Paul now call us?

19. How do Galatians 3:28 and Colossians 3:11 describe this change?

Galatians 3:28:

Colossians 3:11:

20. We are now members of God's household, in no sense, as Gentiles to be looked upon as second class citizens, but full members of His family, which household, Paul tells us in verse 20, God has built upon the foundation of the Apostles and the Prophets. This was God's plan from the beginning, and now as full members of God's household we have full access to the riches of God's grace, and all of His promises to His children belong to us as well. Record below what 2 Peter 1:4 says about these promises.

21. Verses 21 and 22 speak of us as part of the temple of God, a dwelling place of His Spirit. “Christ in you” (Colossians 1:27) is one of the mysteries we looked at in last week’s lesson. What do these additional verses reveal to us about this mystery?

1 Corinthians 3:16-17:

1 Corinthians 6:19:

2 Corinthians 6:16:

22. What amazing riches we have in Christ! What amazing things the riches of His grace have done for us! Write out **2 Corinthians 9:15** as a praise to God!

23. What has ministered to your heart most as you went through Lesson Two?

“When all the saints shall be gathered home they shall still talk and speak of the wonders of Jehovah’s love in Christ Jesus, and in the golden streets they shall stand up and tell what the Lord has done for them to listening crowds of angels, and principalities, and powers.”
(Charles Spurgeon)