

## Saved by Grace; Ephesians 2:4-8

- I. Mercy
  - a. Kindness or concern expressed for someone in need, *compassion, pity, clemency* <sup>1</sup>
  - b. Do you remember crying, "Uncle?"
    - i. Your older sibling twisted your arm behind your back until you cried out in pain, "Uncle!"
    - ii. Some people used the word mercy instead.
    - iii. Your older brother or sister didn't have to release their crushing grip on your arm, but they did when you cried out.
  - c. We are (or have been) living under the overwhelming weight of sin.
    - i. Ephesians 2:1–3 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> 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— <sup>3</sup> 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.
    - ii. We were dead!
      1. We get the English word necrology (a list of the dead, an obituary) from this Greek word.
      2. In the parable of the two sons in Luke 15, Jesus uses this word to refer to the son who "squandered" his inheritance on "reckless living."
      3. Luke 15:24 (ESV) <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.<sup>1</sup> And they began to celebrate.
      4. The Father (God) recognized the death of his son because his son followed his passions and desires; His son was spiritually dead.
      5. The idea of death comes with permanency.
      6. It is not permanent.
  - d. He made us alive.
    - i. Ephesians 2:4–5(ESV) <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
    - ii. From death to life, just like the dry bones in Ezekiel 37.
    - iii. No matter how far gone (dead) we think we are, God can always put sinew, flesh, and skin back on us if we ask Him.
  - e. By grace, you have been saved.
    - i. From the beginning, God knew we would cry, "Uncle!"
    - ii. He knew that the weight of sin would be too much, and there was nothing that we could do to untangle ourselves from it.
    - iii. His "unmerited favor at Christ's expense, when wrath was owed" (death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus) is the only one who can save us.

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<sup>1</sup> William Arndt et al., [\*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature\*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 316.

- iv. Jesus is the grace that saves us, "by grace you have been saved."
- v. "But God being rich in mercy" saved us.
- vi. We cry "Uncle!" or "Mercy!" and Jesus' blood can wash away that devastating weight of sin and spiritual death.

## II. Seated

- a. Ephesians 2:6–8 (ESV) <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
- b. We have been raised and seated with Him.
  - i. Notice the past tense of these verbs.
  - ii. God has raised us already, and we are now seated with him in the heavenly places.
    - 1. Listen to part of Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus.
    - 2. Ephesians 1:18–20 (ESV) <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,
    - 3. Now listen to Paul address the church in Rome.
    - 4. Romans 8:16–17 (ESV) <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
    - 5. We are co-heirs with Christ (NIV84) seated at the Father's right hand!
- c. In His kindness toward us, He shows us the immeasurable riches of His grace.
  - i. Immeasurable means to attain a degree that extraordinarily exceeds a point on a scale of extent, *go beyond, surpass, outdo* <sup>2</sup>
  - ii. His kindness surpasses, exceeds, and outdoes anything we can think or imagine.
  - iii. Ephesians 3:20–21 (ESV) <sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
  - iv. I can imagine quite a lot, but God's kindness and grace exceed even that.
  - v. Paul considered God's grace better than all the worldly riches that exist.
  - vi. Philippians 3:8 (ESV) <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.
- d. The Grace of God (Jesus) has saved us (raised us) and seated us with Him at the right hand of God!

## III. Workmanship

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 1032.

- a. Ephesians 2:9–10 (ESV) <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- b. There is no work we have done or ever could do that would make us worthy of God's salvation.
- c. We are His workmanship.
  - i. People's craftsmanship is often very noticeable.
    - 1. Van Gogh.
    - 2. Da Vinci
    - 3. Artists often sign their work.
  - ii. We get the English word "poem" from this Greek word.
  - iii. We are God's poem.
  - iv. God's craftsmanship, His poem, should be very noticeable in us!
  - v. When people look at us, do they see God's handy work?
  - vi. They should see His poem, His handiwork, through our good works; this is why God created us.
  - vii. We were "created in Christ Jesus for good works."

#### IV. Grace

- a. This is the Grace of God; Jesus gave His life for us so that we might show the world the love of God through our actions.
- b. And, through this outpouring of love, others would desire to become raised and seated at the Father's side.