

But God

Ephesians #6

Eph. 2:1-7

Introduction

1. Ephesians – Written by the apostle Paul while imprisoned, written to the believers in and around Ephesus in A.D. 60-62.
2. Overview – Chapters 1-3 tell us who we are in Christ, chapters 4-6 tell us how we ought to live as a result of who we are in Christ.
3. Last week – We focused on Christ’s headship, rule, and authority, and what those mean for us.

Dead in Sin (v. 1-3)

1. Apart from Christ we were “dead in our trespasses and sins” (v.1). Trespasses = a crossing over, sins = a falling short. The news is as bad as it can get...we were dead. Not in the doghouse but in the morgue.
2. Apart from Christ we were enslaved (v. 2-3). We “walked according to the course of this world”, “according to the prince of the power of the air”, “in the lusts of our flesh”. The news just got worse. Not only were we dead to God and to the things of God, we were also in bondage to this three-fold enemy.
3. Apart from Christ we were condemned (v. 3b). We were “by nature children of wrath”. Not a divine temper tantrum, but the just judgment of a holy, holy, holy God.

Application – Apart from Christ, you were...you are dead in your trespasses and sins. The news is worse than you realize.

But God (v. 4-6)

1. “But God” (v. 4). The gospel in two words.
2. Before Paul can get to the verb of this sentence, a few reminders:
 - a. “being rich in mercy” – undeserved favor, not getting what we deserve.
 - b. “because of His great love” – an active pursuit of His people.
 - c. “even when we were dead in our transgressions” – the beauty of His love and mercy is all the more glorious against the background of our deadness in sin.

3. Now the verb, “made us alive together with Christ” (v.5). In Christ, you have been brought from death to life. Think of Ezekiel’s valley of dry bones (Ezek. 37), Lazarus (Jn. 11), Jairus’ daughter (Lk. 8), Jesus’ resurrection (Mt. 28). Two more reminders:
 - a. “(by grace you have been saved)” (v. 5). Only by grace!
 - b. “with” in v. 5, 2x in v. 6. Paul coins 3 new words by using the prefix “syn”. Syn-made alive, syn-raised, syn-seated. He cannot get over his union with Christ. Nor should we!

Application – You have been made alive together with Christ! The news is better than you could ever imagine. Where do you need to hear “But God” in your life today?

In order that...He might show (v.7)

1. Our being made alive, raised, and seated are all to show forth the riches of His grace and His kindness toward us. Once again, it is about Him not us.
2. “in the ages to come” – remember the “now and not yet” idea. This has already begun and it will continue unto fullness through all eternity. We are and always will be trophies of His grace.
3. “the surpassing riches of His grace” – same word used in 1:19 in reference to the greatness of Christ’s power. Better word = immeasurable. Think grains of sand at your favorite beach.

Application – Do you live as a trophy of His grace? Do you make much of Him in your thoughts, words, and deeds? Or do you belittle Him and the glory of His grace by your apathy, self-focus, complaining spirit, joylessness, continued sin, unbelief, etc.?

Conclusion

1. Come to Jesus. Is. 55:1, “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.”
2. The Lord’s Supper – a visual of “But god”.
3. Pray and examine.