

Ephesians 2:6-7

Today's passage is glorious in its detail as it relates to the marvelous blessings that are bestowed upon God's children. The object of this portion of chapter 2 is to answer an obvious question, what are some of the results of being made alive in Christ? Today, we find that there are at least two, we have been seated with Christ (in a position of divine favor) and guaranteed an eternity of cascading blessings.

1. Our new position

- a. Paul says that we have now (by virtue of the life we enjoy in Christ as our Savior) been raised with Christ in the heavenly places
- b. We come to understand the significance of this passage when we contemplate the overall flow of the text
- c. Hodge helps us draw the connection here saying, "it is by way of amplification that the apostle, after saying we are made partakers of the life of Christ, adds that we are raised up and enthroned with him in heaven... We, if Christians belong not to the earth, but heaven; we are within the pale of God's kingdom; we are under its laws; we have in Christ a title to its privileges, blessings, and possess its spirit. Though we occupy the lowest of this kingdom, we are still in it..."
 - i. The point then is that Christ has transferred us from earth (the domain of darkness) into His Kingdom and all of the blessings that flow from our citizenship in heaven (life, purpose, joy, duty, etc.) are bestowed upon us at salvation
- d. When you were regenerated, you were transformed not only in the sense of your own spiritual life and vitality but also in the sense of your citizenship and its blessings
 - i. If you are in Christ, you have been brought into a new family
 - ii. If you are in Christ, you have a new authority and Father
 - iii. If you are in Christ, you live by a new set of laws
 - iv. If you are in Christ, you are the recipient of eternal life
- e. What strikes me about this verse is its implications for believers
 - i. We have been raised with Christ (indicative, truth), therefore we should live like it (imperative, our responsibility)
 - ii. If you are a believer in Christ, you have been raised with Christ therefore your life should further and further reflect this truth!

2. Our eternal prize

- a. What is the point of this salvation? What is God's goal? One of them is kindness and blessing

- b. Notice here that Paul says the result of our being raised is that God would show us “immeasurable riches”
 - i. Immeasurable means denotes an indeterminate amount
 - ii. I don’t believe it is reading between the lines at all to see in this wording an allusion to eternity
 - iii. If correct, this verse would tell us something about the nature of the joys of our eternal home
 - 1. For the rest of time, you and I will be learning and seeing more of the blessing that Christ is to us
 - 2. God, in Christ, will continue to reveal His character and wisdom and goodness and we will rejoice all the more, never tiring of His kindness and majesty
- c. Here is one point of application
 - i. The point of Paul’s writing here is both immediate and everlasting
 - ii. I believe there is something of an implication for our lives today
 - iii. While it is true that in heaven we will be seeing and savoring more of God’s glory which will result in our great joy, it is just as true that our current responsibility and privilege is to grow in our knowledge of Christ which results in our joy
 - iv. Folks, to be transparent, I grieve for some of you because I worry that many have failed to experience these blessings
 - 1. Part of the joy of the Christian life is grounded in the growth of our knowledge of Christ
 - a. When you and I are students of the Word and earnest in our prayers to see the revelation of God in the Bible more clearly, we are blessed by what we find
 - b. Yet so many Christians have spent decades of their lives with little more than a cursory, occasional thought about the things of God
 - c. This ought not be! Obviously indifference compromises our ability to be faithful to our Commission (which includes “teaching them to obey ALL that I have commanded you”) but indifference also robs us of joy
 - d. There is great blessing in learning and growing in the knowledge of the glory of Christ... this is a blessing that has already begun and it is one that was purchased by the blood of Christ, don’t neglect it!