

# THE GREATEST KINDNESS EVER SHOWN

## Part 6 Romans Chapter Two

Ephesians 2:7 **SLIDE**

*That in [all] the ages to come [proceeding ... from this time on] He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in [the form of] His kindness toward [‘epi’ on the basis of] us [being] in Christ Jesus.*

THIS IS THE END OF THAT GREAT STATEMENT WHICH STARTED IN VERSE 4 -

Ephesians 2:4-7 **SLIDES X 2**

*But God, who is rich in mercy because of His great mercy with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in trespasses made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) <sup>6</sup>and raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly place in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace **in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.***

It is not by accident that this sentence ends with the focus back on God with **the grace of God’s kindness shining forth ...**

**In this sentence**, we are shown how we’ve been –

*raised from spiritual death  
given new life  
raised up to God’s heaven  
seated with Christ Himself ...*

And here in Verse 7 Paul is showing us, **this all happened because of the grace of God’s kindness to us ...**

- IT’S NOT THE AWESOME POWER & MIGHT OF GOD WE SEE HERE
- IT’S NOT HIS EXQUISITE HOLINESS THAT SHINES OUT
- IT’S NOT HIS INFALLIBLE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT’S BEING PRAISED ...

IT’S THE GRACE OF **GOD’S KINDNESS TOWARD US** ...  
SOMETHING THAT WILL BE DISPLAYED FOR ALL AGES TO COME.

SO, AT THE COMPLETION OF OUR MAGNIFICENT SPIRITUAL REDEMPTION –  
**SLIDE** **We see, the** Resplendent, Radiant, Bright, Breathtaking Dazzling,

Glorious, Transcendent **KINDNESS OF GOD** ... SHINING OVER OUR  
REDEMPTION ... **BRIGHTER THAN THE BRILLIANCE OF 100,000 SUNS** ...

➤ **THIS KINDNESS MANIFESTS GOD'S GLORY**

To God belongs all glory for what He has done for us ... for what He's  
given us ... for where He's placed us ...  
And the attribute of God's glory that shines the brightest of all here is ...  
**HIS KINDNESS TO US**

➤ **THIS KINDNESS IS PART OF GOD'S GLORY**

When Moses asked to see **GOD'S GLORY**, God told him, He could  
only see His back parts. And there, God revealed His Glory – His  
divine attributes -

Exodus 34:6 NASB 1977 **SLIDE**

*Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The  
LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,  
and **abounding in lovingkindness and truth.** (See also Nehemiah 9:17)*

Kindness = (he-sed) beauty – In most places this word is translated 'Loving Kindness'

**GOD IS KIND**

Galatians 5:22-23 Berean Study Bible

*But the fruit [character] of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,  
**kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.  
Against such things there is no law.*

**The Fruit of the Spirit are God's character: the divine attributes of  
God are listed here.**

1 Corinthians 13:4 Berean Literal Bible

*Love is patient, **love is kind**, love is not envious, it is not boastful, it  
is not puffed up.*

**kind** = chrestos; full of service to others in love)

God is 'Love' (1 John 4:16)

**GOD IS KIND**

**AS WE SANG, 'HIS HEART IS KIND'**

*Chrestos* = **KINDNESS = GOODNESS OF HEART ... GRACIOUSNESS ...**

## WHAT IS YOUR CONCEPT OF GOD?

GOD IS NOT AN ANGRY GOD.

SIN HAS STIRRED HIS ANGER -

BUT HE HIMSELF IS NOT AN ANGRY BEING –

**GOD HIMSELF IS & REMAINS LOVING AND KIND.**

HIS HEART OF LOVING-KINDNESS IS GREATER THAN HIS EMOTION OF ANGER.

Isaiah 54:8 NIV **SLIDE**

*In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you,” says the Lord your Redeemer.*

**NB: COMPASSION FLOWS FROM GOD’S KINDNESS**

*Notice: Momentary Anger gave-way to Everlasting Kindness. Remember we were all by nature children of wrath, but kindness with compassion found a way to appeasement ...*

### ➤ THIS KINDNESS IS GOD’S PURE MOTIVATION

THIS BRILLIANT ATTRIBUTE OF GOD’S GLORY COMES BLAZING FORTH REVEALING NOT ONLY **WHAT** GOD HAS DONE FOR US THROUGH HIS SON’S LIFE, DEATH, RESURRECTION, ASCENSION & CORINATION ... BUT **WHY GOD HAS DONE WHAT HE HAS DONE**

**IT’S BECAUSE OF HIS KINDNESS THAT OUR REDEMPTION HAPPENED**

If anyone ever questioned the motivation of God -  
to choose us before the foundation of the earth  
to find us here in time  
to die for us  
to give us new life  
to raise us up to heaven  
to seat us with Him -  
It’s answered right here!

**IT’S NOTHING MORE & NOTHING LESS THAN HIS KINDNESS TOWARD US**  
– THERE IS NO OTHER REASON.

*Again and again I see on TV shows and drama’s, people doing kind acts to others with no benefit to themselves ... e.g. a person carrying someone who has been wounded ‘miles from nowhere’ ... to get them to a doctor. And they*

are asked -

**'WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?'**

IT'S BECAUSE OF KINDNESS.

God didn't want to rule the world like some mega, super-villain ...

GOD ALREADY RULES THE UNIVERSE.

God didn't want to be exalted and praised like some egocentric super-hero ...

GOD IS ALREADY EXALTED ... HE ALWAYS WAS.

God didn't want the wealth of the world ...

GOD IS WEALTHY BEYOND OUR IMAGINATION & WANTS FOR NOTHING.

**NO. GOD'S MOTIVATION IS 100% PURE BECAUSE HE IS 'KIND OF HEART'.**

**SLIDES X 2**

**THESE EXAMPLES SHOW KINDNESS AS WE SEE IN LIFE ...**

HOWEVER ...

➤ **THIS KINDNESS IN OUR VERSE IS ONE ACT OF KINDNESS**

Here in our text Paul refers to **a certain act of kindness** ... an act so amazing ... it is described as AN **'EXCEEDINGLY RICH ACT OF GRACE'**.

Let's look again at our text

Ephesians 2:7 **SLIDE**

*That in the ages to come He might show **the exceeding riches of His grace in His [act of] kindness** toward us in Christ Jesus.*

NB: This is not just a rich manifestation of grace ... but **an exceedingly rich manifestation of grace** expressed in **a certain act of kindness** ...

NB: OUR REBIRTH IS CALLED, **GRACE BY WHICH WE HAVE BEEN SAVED** -

Ephesians 2:5 **SLIDE**

*Even when we were dead in trespasses [God] made us alive together with Christ (**by grace you have been saved**)*

BUT HERE IN VERSE 7 WE ARE TOLD THAT SOMETHING GREATER HAS HAPPENED TO US ... DESCRIBED AS - **THE EXCEEDING RICHNESS OF GRACE** -

Ephesians 2:7 **SLIDE**

... He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward in Christ Jesus.

What is it that could be so exceedingly rich in kindness?  
Can you see it?

**SLIDE** THE GREATEST KINDNESS EVER SHOWN ...  
WAS WHEN GOD PLACED YOU IN CHRIST THE SON OF HIS LOVE.

HE HAS PUT US INTO HIS BELOVED SON

Ephesians 2:7 **SLIDE**

That in [all] the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us [now being] in Christ Jesus [the Son of His Love]

'IN CHRIST' HAS BEEN A REPEATED PHRASE IN EPHESIANS  
This is the 12<sup>th</sup> time Paul has mentioned this phrase.

It often reveals different aspects of our position 'In Christ' –  
Legally, Federally, Strategically, Organically, Relationally ...

But here Paul is not referring to us being in Christ positionally ...  
federally ... legally ... strategically ... etc ...

- HE'S SAYING, GOD HAS PLACED YOU IN CHRIST AFFECTIONATELY
- He's referring to an earlier statement (in verse 6) which has already come to pass -

Ephesians 1:6 NIV **SLIDE**

To the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us [by placing us] in the One He loves.

**This is the ultimate kindness ...**

After God had given His Beloved Son to us and for us, He now places us ... in Him affectionately ... in The Son of His affection.  
We can experience His affection.

'The Beloved' = (Ēgapēmenō) Means To love, to take pleasure in, to long for

We have examples of this in how Jesus loved affectionately -

Mark 10:21 NASB 1977

*And looking at him [the rich young ruler], Jesus felt a love for him*

...

John is called, 'the Disciple that Jesus Loved' (John 20:2)

This love is also 'Phileo' love ... affectionate love.

This term is used six times in the gospel of John.

This is Love you can feel ...

### **GOD'S LOVE FOR HIS SON**

*Jesus is the most precious one to The Father.*

*He has tender affection toward The Son ... and ...*

*He has now included us (you and me, though undeserving) in that affection.*

God has opened His heart of love to us ...

Not just agape love (love of decision and commitment) ...

But affectionate love.

Matthew 3:17

*And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is **My beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased."*

(See also - [Matthew 17:5](#))

John 5:20 NIV **SLIDE**

***The Father loves the Son** and shows Him all He does ...*

NB This word 'Love' is not Agape but **Phileo**

It is affectionate love ... brotherly love ...

And ...

### **WE HAVE BEEN PLACED INTO CHRIST – THE SON OF GOD'S LOVE**

#### **SLIDE**

WE ARE CONNECTED TO JESUS AS OUR HEAD – ORGANICALLY

WE ARE ESTABLISHED IN JESUS – LEGALLY

WE ARE RELATED TO JESUS – RELATIONALLY

BUT NOW **WE ARE EMERSED INTO HIM – AFFECTIONATELY**

What kindness has been shown to you and me now!

God says, 'I want you to be a part of the most precious thing to me.'

### **HERE WE START TO SEE THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S HEART**

**This week I learned a New, Old Word: 'passibility' or 'passible'.**

It is so archaic that 'Word' does not recognise it.

**It means: Capable of feeling or suffering; sensitive**

THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT THEOLOGICAL DEBATE FOR YEARS ABOUT WHETHER GOD IS PASSIBLE?

DOES GOD FEEL AS WE DO ... CAN GOD FEEL SAD?

WE READ OF GOD'S DISSAPPOINTMENT ... GOD'S SORROW ... WITH THE FLOOD –

'It repents me that I have made man' ... 'I am extremely sad' ... (See Genesis 6:6)

We see His sorrow in Habakkuk – His longing for man – 'Oh how could I give you my Israel?'

He not only 'agape'-loves us ... He 'philio'-loves us ... He affectionately loves us ...

Just like He said of Jesus -

My beloved Son in whom I DELIGHT ... of whom I'M SO PROUD ...

### **GOD THE FATHER HAS DEEP AFFECTION FOR YOU IN CHRIST**

Here we get a glimpse of the affectionate heart of God ... His tender emotions ... warm and gentle ...

His hearts swells with pride concerning you ...

**Did you know?**

He's letting you in on His private, personal feelings of fondness for His Son ... which nobody had seen before ...

You have been chosen and brought here not just to observe ... but to be a part of God's tender affections toward His Son ...

He now includes you in that affection ...

Ephesians 2:7 **SLIDE**

*That in [all] the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us [now being] in Christ Jesus [The Son of His Love].*

**'IN HIS KINDNESS TOWARD US' -**

Do you realise the privilege we are being given here?

Look at us - you and me - mentioned here again ... '*in Christ Jesus*' ...

It involves us even at this exceeding level of riches ...

IT'S ALL TO DO WITH GOD'S GLORY & US ... WHO HE'S MADE US ... WHERE HE'S BROUGHT US ... AND WHERE HE'S PLACED US ...

**WE ARE THE TROPHIES OF HIS GLORY**

THIS IS NOT THE ANGRY JUDGE IN THE SKY ....

THIS IS THE FATHER RUNNING TO HUG HIS SON ... (Luke 15:20)

**PLACING US IN CHRIST IS THE GREATEST ACT OF GOD'S KINDNESS -  
THAT REVEALS GOD'S OWN CHARACTER**

### **THE AGES TO COME**

Ephesians 2:7 **SLIDE**

*That **in [all] the ages to come** He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us [now being] in Christ Jesus [The Son of His Love].*

*"The ages to come" denotes eras to begin from that time, running on now, and to continue hereafter – i.e. ALL THE AGES PROCEEDING AFTER THIS ...*

#### **THERE IS NOW THE CHURCH AGE**

*We are now in the church age – the age of His grace.*

**YOU NOW ARE A PART OF THE AGES THAT HAVE COME ... THE CHURCH AGE ... AND YOU SHINE WITH GOD'S KINDNESS ...**

*You are not just living for yourself ... you are alive in Christ for his glory ...*

*You shine into the darkness ...*

*There are others still coming ... yet to be born again and placed in The Son of His love.*

*They too will shine in the age in which they live.*

*These are the divine ages of God ...*

#### **THERE WILL BE THE MILLENNIAL AGE**

*This great 'age to come' will begin when Jesus comes for us and when we are completely redeemed 'body, soul and spirit' ...*

*When we are completely transformed ... in all ways ... into his image.*



The Parousia (the second coming of Christ) ... will begin the age of the second coming ...

**THERE IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE THE ENDLESS AGE**

**GOD'S KINDNESS TO US WILL FOREVER SHINE IN ETERNITY**

**Daniel 12:3**

***The wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever.***

**Matthew 13:43**

***Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.***