

GOD LOVED YOU INTO LIFE IN CHRIST

PART 3 EPHESIANS CHAPTER TWO

Ephesians 2:4-5 American Standard Version **SLIDE**

*But God, being rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith **He loved us** ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us **alive** together with Christ (by grace have you been saved).*

NB: You were **loved** with great love – not only was this love the greatest love ever known, but ‘this great love’ **loved you** greatly

NB: THE PAST TENSE OF THE VERB ‘TO LOVE’

WE READ, ‘HE LOVED US’

Most believers today talk about ... pray about ... sing about ... our present-day experience of God’s love: *‘Jesus loves me this I know’, ‘His banner over me is love’, ‘Your love never fails, never gives up’ etc ...*

PRESENT DAY LOVE ...

HOWEVER, THE NEW TESTAMENT SPEAKS MORE ABOUT THE PAST EXPRESSION OF GOD’S LOVE FOR US AS THIS IS THE GREATEST EXPRESSION OF GOD’S LOVE EVER DISPLAYED!

Ephesians 5:2 Contemporary English Version

*Christ ... **loved us and gave Himself for us***

John 3:16

*For God so **loved the world** ...*

This is the love that **‘loved us’** - past tense.

But because we don’t understand this great love with which **‘He loved us’**, we go craving assurance from God’s present day love ...

NB: KNOWING HIS LOVE WITH WHICH WE HAVE BEEN LOVED ALLOWS US TO REST & RECEIVE THE PRESENT-DAY EXPERIENCE OF HIS LOVE.

THIS IS DOCTRINAL ... ESTABLISHED ... SETTLED ... ACCOMPLISHED LOVE
NOT A PRESENT-DAY COMPASSION ... EMOTIONAL UNDERSTANDING ...
BUT AN ESTABLISHED EXPRESSION OF POWER AND ASSURANCE.

GET THIS & YOU GET EVERYTHING!

- **THE FIRST THING WE SEE ABOUT GOD'S LOVE THAT LOVED US IS ...**

THIS LOVE LOVED ME WHEN I WAS UNDESERVING OF HIS LOVE

He loved me when I was dead ... under Satan's control.
It is unconditional love and it is love that loves the unlovely.

- **THE SECOND THING WE SEE ABOUT THIS GREAT LOVE IS HE LOVED US WITH MERCY!**

Two weeks ago we saw that **God loved us with mercy** even when we were dead in sins. His love worked out a way to save us by His mercy, from decreed guilt and judgement.

This love worked out a legal way to clear our debt and free us from death row!

But today we see that not only did God love us with His mercy ... He went further ...

- **THE THIRD THING WE SEE ABOUT THIS GREAT LOVE IS ... GOD LOVED US INTO ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS**

YOU SEE, GOD'S LOVE DIDN'T STOP AT JUST SETTING US FREE.
GOD'S LOVE WENT ON TO ENERGISE US WITH NEW LIFE ... HIS LIFE ...

WE COULD SAY THAT SALVATION IS IN TWO HALVES ...

- 1. IT CLEARS US OF OUR SINS & JUDGEMENT**
- 2. IT MAKES US ALIVE & BRINGS US INTO NEW LIFE**

THIS NEW LIFE IS THE 2ND HALF OF OUR SALVATION

- 1. THE DEATH OF JESUS ON THE CROSS BROUGHT US UNDESERVED MERCY**
- 2. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE GRAVE BROUGHT US INTO NEW LIFE**

**THIS IS ALL BY HIS GRACE ...
AND GRACE IS BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE**

His undeserved mercy came by his grace ...

Now, His undeserved 'new life' comes by His grace ...
We didn't earn any of it ... we couldn't earn it ... it was done for us and given while we were **absolutely dead in sin** ... comatose ... ignorant ... oblivious to God or His love ...

But God ... rich in mercy ... great in love ... **mercied us** ...
And then brought us into His life with Christ ...
All because He loved us ... and all by His sovereign grace.

SLIDE SO GOD '**MERCIED US**' ... THEN GOD '**LIFED US**' -
ALL BY GRACE ... **BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE**

LOOK AT THE WORDS I'VE HIGH-LIGHTED IN OUR TEXT ...

Ephesians 2:4-5 **SLIDE**
But God ... loved us ... alive ...

HE GRACED US WITH MERCY ... HE GRACED US WITH NEW LIFE
BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED!!!!

MY POINT IS THIS: IMAGINE RECEIVING MERCY WITHOUT
LIFE

If God had just stopped at mercy ... and not given us new life ... we would have been decreed forgiven ... we would have escaped judgement ...
But ...

We would not have been able to enjoy the freedom given to us because we would have been still dead!

And indeed, God would not have been able to enjoy us.

WE WOULD HAVE BEEN A FORGIVEN & FREE **DEAD PEOPLE!**

SLIDE HAVE YOU HEARD OF A POSTHUMOUS PARDON?

One example is someone who has been executed for a crime, but has afterwards been posthumously cleared of that crime.

What good does it do that person?

*I watched a Rawhide episode where a hero soldier killed another soldier who was going to harm an old Indian man.
The two soldiers wrestled ... the aggressor tried to stab the hero soldier*

who had been protecting the Indian, but the Hero got the better of the aggressor and stabbed and killed him.

The Hero soldier then panicked and fled the fort.

The army sent a detail after him with orders to shoot on sight even though he was innocent.

THEY EVENTUALLY CAUGHT HIM AND SHOT HIM ... KILLING HIM.

SLIDE *At his graveside one of the drovers from the rawhide gang was told, 'All charges have been dropped and he has been cleared.'*

THE RAWHIDE GUY SAID ... 'WELL, THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO HIM NOW. HE'S DEAD.'

The hero soldier was declared not guilty by a court of law ...

But he couldn't enjoy it.

The law could not raise him from the dead so he could enjoy his freedom or celebrate his justification ...

MERCY WAS NOT ENOUGH TO RAISE HIM TO ENJOY HIS FREEDOM ... HE NEEDED TO BE MADE ALIVE.

CAN YOU SEE IT?

CAN YOU START TO SEE HOW MAGNIFICENT THIS LIFE IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN???

Being given His life made His mercy relevant to us ... forgiveness real ...

We could never even see this if we had not been given LIFE.

NOW BECAUSE OF HIS LIFE, WE ARE ABLE TO START ...

- ***TO UNDERSTAND*** HIS LOVE THAT LOVED US ...
- ***TO FEEL*** THE RELIEF OF HIS MERCY THAT FORGAVE US
- ***TO ENJOY*** THE EXPERIENCE OF HIS PRESENT DAY LOVE ...

WE HAVE ALL THIS WHEN WE BECOME ALIVE IN CHRIST, SO WE CAN BEGIN TO ENJOY OUR FREEDOM IN A NEW LIFE.

BUT LET'S LOOK AT HOW ALL THIS ALL HAPPENED ...

Ephesians 2:5 American Standard Version **SLIDE**

... When we were dead through our trespasses [God] made us alive together with Christ

NB: THE PREPOSITION IS '**WITH**' CHRIST AND NOT '**IN**' CHRIST
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME PAUL HAS USED '**WITH CHRIST**' IN
EPHESIANS

IN EPHESIANS ONE - Paul states we are:

- BLESSED **IN** CHRIST (verse 3)
- ACCEPTED **IN** CHRIST (verse 6)
- REDEEMED **IN** CHRIST (verse 7)

But here he says we have been made alive '**with**' Christ.
This is a reference to the process of **HOW GOD MADE US ALIVE.**

IT WAS BECAUSE OF WHAT JESUS DID FOR US THAT WE HAVE
THIS NEW LIFE ... BUT IT GOES FURTHER THAN THAT ...

PAUL IS SAYING, **WHEN JESUS DIED & ROSE AGAIN ... WE WERE
WITH HIM ...**

NB: In our verse the phrase and the concept can be a little
misleading, suggesting it was us that chose to identify with Christ
... But it was not us ...

IT WAS ALL JESUS DOING ...

WE WERE **WITH HIM** BECAUSE **HE UNITED WITH US** IN OUR
DEATH ... AND **HE UNITED US WITH HIM** IN HIS RESURRECTION.

- **WE WERE WITH HIM IN HIS DEATH** BECAUSE **HE ENTERED
INTO OUR DEATH STATE UPON THE CROSS**
- **WE ARE WITH HIM IN HIS LIFE** BECAUSE HE TOOK US **WITH
HIM** FROM DEATH TO LIFE AT THE RESURRECTION

REMEMBER ... WE WERE ALREADY IN THAT DEATH STATE.

SLIDE JESUS ENTERED OUR DEATH STATE UPON THE CROSS,
UNITED WITH US & ROSE WITH US OUT OF IT ... INTO NEW LIFE.
JESUS DID FOR US WHAT WE COULDN'T DO FOR OURSELVES.

Romans 6:5 **SLIDE**

*For if we have been **united together** in the likeness of His death,
certainly we also shall be **[united together]** in the
likeness of His resurrection ...*

SLIDE On June 23, 2018, you may remember the 12 Asian Soccer players, ages 11-16, who got trapped in the Tham Luang caves in Thailand. The boys were trapped in darkness for more than two weeks without food or water and could not save themselves. In order for them to be brought out of the cave of death into the world of life, **they had to be attached to a navy seal diver.** **SLIDE THEY CAME THROUGH UNITED TO THE DIVER.**

NB: A volunteer diver and former Thai Navy SEAL, Saman Kunan, died on July 6, when he ran out of oxygen underwater while attempting to deliver oxygen tanks to the boys.

- **JUST LIKE THESE BOYS WHO WERE BROUGHT FROM DARKNESS INTO THE LIGHT BY BEING ATTACHED TO, & COMING UP & OUT WITH THEIR RESCUER ... SO WE HAVE COME INTO THE NEWNESS OF LIFE WITH CHRIST.**

We were trapped in darkness without hope ...

And just like these divers who had to go down into the darkness, Jesus descended into the darkness of this world.

Philippians 2:7-8 KJV, [v8] NKJV

[Jesus] made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

- **JUST LIKE THESE DIVERS HAD TO ENTER THE BOY'S SITUATION AND TAKE ON EACH BOY'S HELPLESSNESS SO JESUS CAME INTO THE DEATH REALM AND ENTERED INTO OUR DEATH STATE**

And, just as one man died to get them out ... so with us ... One Man died to rescue us.

Hebrews 2:9

*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honour, that He, by the grace of God, **might taste death for everyone.***

LITERALLY - [on behalf of every man, He might taste death

HE 100% IDENTIFIED WITH ALL OUR SIN & DEATH

Isaiah 53:10-12

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; **He has put Him to grief.** When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days ...
¹¹... By His knowledge [by their knowledge of Him] My righteous Servant shall justify many, for **He shall bear their iniquities.** ¹² ... **He poured out His soul unto death,** and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

- **JUST LIKE EACH BOY HAD TO BE CONNECTED TO HIS RESCUER ... SO WE WERE CONNECTED TO JESUS AT HIS RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD ... WHICH BROUGHT US INTO HIS NEW LIFE.**

Colossians 2:12 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

And having been buried with Him in baptism, *you were raised with Him* through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Colossians 2:13 Berean Study Bible

When you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, *God made you alive with Christ* ...

Ephesians 2:5 American Standard Version **SLIDE**

... *When we were dead through our trespasses [God] made us alive together with Christ* ...

JESUS ENTERED THE REALM OF THE DEAD TO RAISE THE DEAD TO RESURRECTION LIFE.

- **WE RECEIVED A COMPLETELY NEW LIFE**

We haven't been made better. We've been made completely new!

2 Corinthians 5:17 **SLIDE**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation ... old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new.

NOT RESTORED TO THE OLD CREATION

WE HAVE BEEN RAISED A 'NEW CREATION'

This is not the same life as Adam had. This is resurrection life.

This life is greater than what Adam had.

ADAM HAD A GOOD LIFE (GOD SAW IT WAS GOOD Genesis 1:31)

WE NOW HAVE A GLORIOUS LIFE

2 Corinthians 3:11 KJV

For if that which is done away [was] glorious, much more that which remaineth [is] glorious.

Psalms 45:13 KJV

The king's daughter [is] all glorious within: her clothing [is] of wrought gold.

- **WE RECEIVED AN INDESTRUCTIBLE LIFE**

ADAM HAD A CONDITIONAL LIFE (- EAT OF THE TREE & YOU WILL DIE)

WE HAVE AN INDESTRUCTIBLE LIFE (THE POWER OF AN INDESTRUCTIBLE LIFE) -

Hebrews 7:16 NIV

*[Jesus] has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of **the power of an indestructible life.***

John 11:25-26 KJV SLIDE

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: ²⁶And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die ...

- **WE RECEIVED AN INCORRUPTIBLE LIFE**

1 Peter 1:23 SLIDE

Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.

This Incorruptible Life can never be judged. [See John 5:24]

The Sheep and The Goats [see Matthew 25:31-46] were judged or acquitted, not because of their works, but because their works showed their nature.

The sheep nature is His nature. We have His nature ... His new life ...