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## Alive in Christ, Ephesians 2:4-7

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### Introduction

- Last week, we looked at the human condition apart from God. We are dead, enslaved, and condemned in our sin.
    - Paul paints a bleak and distressing picture. However, everything changes, hope for the world enters with just two syllables—*but God*.
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### What God Did

- **Point:** God has saved us from our condition.
  - Paul’s use of “saved” (*sesomenoi*) is a perfect participle. “It emphasizes the abiding consequences of God’s saving action in the past, as if Paul should say, ‘You are people who have been saved and remain forever saved.’”
- He describes God’s saving work for us with three verbs that use *syn* meaning “together with” — thereby linking us to Christ in three events.
  - He *made us alive together with Christ*, vs. 5.
  - He *raised us up with him*, vs. 6a.
  - He *made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*, 6b.
    - They are mentioned in the Apostle’s Creed, “The third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and he sits at the right hand of God the Father.”
- These verbs refer to three successive historical events in Jesus’ salvation work— resurrection, ascension, and session.
  - Consider how profound this is:
    - First, Paul is declaring that our salvation is not grounded in an idea or something metaphorical; rather, it has been accomplished in *reality*, in time and space.

- Second, what is remarkable is that Paul is not talking about Christ but about *us*.

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## How God Did It

- How is this possible?
  - Jesus is spoken of like a great hero who returns victorious and is rewarded a seat at the right hand of the Father. But he is given the highest, most honorable seat in the universe. How can Paul say that we are seated with him?
    - We're legally seated there. Jesus is our representative.
- We have been so saved that you are treated by God as if you had done everything Jesus Christ had ever done. How? Because of his kindness to us.
  - The Greek word carries more than a sentiment but a costly action.
- **Point:** We have been saved from our sin by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
  - John Stott said, "For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man."
    - He saved us from our self-centeredness by doing the most un-self-centered thing anyone has ever done.
- We are given a new kind of boasting that gives us the confidence to face life (Galatians 6).

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## Why God Did It

- Paul gives us a glimpse into God's motivation for doing this work.
- **Point:** God saves us from our sins because he is rich in mercy.
  - His reason is not for something in us but something in himself.
  - He writes of God's mercy (4a), love (4b), grace (5, 8), and kindness (7).
- Moreover, he saved us so that in the coming age he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace (7).

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins

2 in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. 3 We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, 5 made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! 6 He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. -- Ephesians 2:1-7 (CSB)