

**“But God...”**

**September 16, 2018**

**Ephesians 2:1-7**

**CORE:** This passage is about **Divine intervention**—God stepping into our impossible situation—doing for us what we could never do for ourselves. Why the writer of **Hebrews** calls it “**so great a salvation.**”

**NOTE:** Knowing our identity in Christ—we must know who we **WERE** (**NOTE: 3 totally hopeless situations**) and who we now **ARE!**

### **1. You were DEAD (v. 1)**

- **“Nekros”**—lifeless, hopeless, helpless; **de-ceased**—finished; no chance to start again (i.e., if something “ceases” it can start again. “De”—totally, completely)
- **NOTE:** Even the “**best**” people—who want to do right—have this condition!
- **“Sins” & “Transgressions”**—missing the mark?
  - **Missing**—one who is valued—He missed us (**Matt. 23:37**)
  - **“Lost”**—speaks of value, as well (i.e., sheep, coin, son)

**BUT GOD** **“Made you alive together with Christ”** (unique compound verb) (v. 4)

- Lit. - “To share in the same quality of life of another”
- More than “re-animated”; **“RE-INTIMATED”**
- **Psalm 16:8 & 11**

### **2. You were CAPTIVES (v. 2)**

- To **“the prince of the air”**—**the principle influence over a region**
- Often discerned by the effects
- Example: **“Poverty Spirit”**
  - Inferiority; underachievers; “victims” (us/them)
  - Feel “less than”; intimidated
  - Delusion & confusion
  - Addictive behaviors
  - Vulnerable to witchcraft & spiritualism (false superiority)

**BUT GOD ...”raised us up & seated us with Him in heavenly places”** (v. 6)

- **“Raised”**—to rouse from death—removing every **delusion** that we are **powerless to change!**
- **“Seated together with (in place of authority)”**— seated with Him on **His** throne—knowing that our authority comes from **Who He is in us!**

- “Heavenly places”—now!!! Places of spiritual influence & authority.
- Enforced TOGETHER (Plural “you”; Gladiator- “*As one!*”) Break control

### **3. You were CHILDREN OF WRATH (v. 3)**

“The WRATH of GOD” is His **fully justified, holy opposition** to sin & its effects.  
(It is NOT God losing His temper or being hateful)

- *“So fix your gaze on the simultaneous kindness and strict justice of God. How severely He treated those who fell into unbelief! Yet how tender and kind is His relationship with you! So keep on trusting in His kindness; otherwise, you will also be cut off.” (Romans 11:22 TPT)*
- 1- His wrath is JUSTIFIED (*“Those who persist in stubbornness and unrepentant hearts are **storing up wrath** against themselves for the day when His righteous judgment will be revealed.” Romans 2:5*)
  - 2- His wrath is His LOVE—confronting everything that separates us from Him.
  - 3- His wrath was FULLY SATISFIED ON THE CROSS.
    - a. *“God demonstrated His justice...” (Romans 3:25) NOTE: A “debt” was incurred—a price had to be paid.*
    - b. *“God demonstrated His love for us in this: While we were sinners Christ died for us...justified by His blood...saved from God’s wrath through Him!” (Romans 5:8-9)*
    - c. **Simply put:** *“Jesus rescues us from the coming wrath” (1 Thessalonians 1:10)*

We can either:

- 1- **BLAME** (*i.e., Adam*)
- 2- **Try to EARN** (*i.e., religious performance*)
- 3- **RECEIVE** (*“If we confess our sins—He is faithful to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9*)

**BUT GOD** “shows His grace & expresses His kindness to us in Jesus” (v. 7)

- “Show”- an open demonstration of how awesome our Father is (*“Let your light so shine before men → glorify your Father!”*) *Who’s your Daddy?*
- “Grace”- supernatural empowerment
- “Kindness”- deep affections

### **CLOSING**

- Prophetic word from Cynthia Jackson (see attached)
- W.O.K.’s (?)
- Declaration of Spirit of Adoption & Spirit of Identity

**Word from Cynthia Jackson (Sept. 9, 2018):**

I felt like the Lord was saying that not only is He coming to erase the negative words that others have placed on us (as Ms. LuAnn Mast spoke over us), but He is coming to “BREAK” cycles associated with those negative words.

Merriam-Webster’s definition of “*Cycle*” is a course or series of events or operations that recur regularly and usually lead back to the starting point. I believe that God is saying no more will we end up back to the starting point of the dysfunction that has plagued our life. He is opening a broad and spacious place for our feet and WILL NOT allow the hand of the enemy to sabotage our gifts, talents, and divine connections that God has for us- (Psalm 31:8- You have not given me into the hands of the enemy but have set my feet in a spacious place).

I also believe the Holy Spirit is saying to many of us that we are moving from a below standard of living to an above standard of living. Jesus is elevating our faith and we have the authority to break cycles, strongholds, chains and bondages! It is our Inheritance and it belongs to us!