

016 - The Exceeding Riches of His Grace - Ephesians 2:5-7 - 2014-09-07

Call to Worship: 1 Chronicles 29:20

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 29:10-13

Sermon: "The Exceeding Riches of His Grace" Ephesians 2:5b-7

Benediction: Ephesians 3:20-21

INTRODUCTION

The Lord's apostle prays that we who have come to believe in Christ may know some things about God, so that we can praise Him, can bless Him, humbling ourselves before Him and worshiping Him as God.

One of these things we should know is the powerful work God has done in bringing us to faith in Christ--a powerful work that amounts to raising us from the dead.

In addition to praying we will know this, the apostle teaches us about it. In the course of doing so, he convinces us of our previous spiritual death in trespasses and extols some of the wonderful qualities of God--He is rich in mercy and great in love toward us.

This powerful work of God has more to it, though, than raising us from spiritual death, great as that work was. So, the apostle treats us to a further description of what the Lord God has done for us, and informs us of God's ultimate purpose in doing what He has done.

God has done great things for us in Christ Jesus, all as a display of the riches of His grace.

TEXT: Ephesians 2:5-7

BODY

God has done great things for us in Christ Jesus, all as a display of the riches of His grace.

I. What God the Father Did for Us

NOTE: What the Lord Jesus Christ needed to have done for Him does not correspond precisely with what we needed done for us.

1. He was not spiritually dead in trespasses, and so did not need to be made alive in that sense.
2. He died physically and needed to be raised up from death
3. He needed to be brought from this earth to His seat in heaven

- A. when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ
 - 1. Christ was dead bodily; we were dead spiritually in trespasses
 - 2. God made Christ alive bodily; He made us alive spiritually
 - 3. So we are alive together with Christ
 - 4. This actually has been done for us, each of us in his own person

- B. raised us up together in Christ
 - 1. God the Father has done this for Christ, and for us in Christ
 - 2. but He has not done this for us yet in our own person
 - 3. and so we look forward to it in sure hope

- C. made us sit together in the heavenly in Christ Jesus
 - 1. God the Father has done this for Christ, and for us in Christ
 - 2. but He has not done this for us yet in our own person
 - 3. and so we look forward to it in sure hope

II. Why God the Father Did What He Did for Us
to show exceeding riches of His grace

III. APPLICATIONS

made us alive together with Christ

Goodwin:

of the soul in this life

raised us up together

Goodwin:

-most interpreters, and I myself . . . judge it to refer rather to that glorious resurrection of the body which is to come

-the body after this life

-when he speaks of quickening, it is a work already done in us . . . But when he comes to those works which yet are to be wrought in us, as this resurrection and this sitting in heavenly places is, which are but in hope; of these he only saith that they are wrought for us in Christ, but not they are wrought in us with Christ, because that we are not yet actually in our persons partakers of them, but only as yet in our Head; but when he saith we are quickened together with Christ, (as likewise in Col 2:13 the phrase is,) his meaning is that we have ben actually partakers in our own persons of quickening, as well as Christ was

and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

Goodwin:

I take the words to import our being raised in Christ as in a head, as in a common person; and in his being raised and sitting in heavenly places, we are said also to be so.

Poole:

as our Head, and representative. Our spiritual enlivening {Eph_2:5} we have not only fundamentally in Christ when restored to life, but actually begun in ourselves in our effectual calling; but the resurrection of our bodies, and our sitting in heaven, we have not as yet actually fulfilled in ourselves, yet have it in Christ our Head, who rose for us and we in him, and sits in heaven for us, and we in him may be said to sit there too, by reason of our union with him, and being members of him.

Calvin:

The resurrection and sitting in heaven, which are here mentioned, are not yet seen by mortal eyes. Yet, as if those blessings were presently in our possession, he states that we have received them; and illustrates the change which has taken place in our condition, when we were led from Adam to Christ. It is as if we had been brought from the deepest hell to heaven itself. And certainly, although, as respects ourselves, our salvation is still the object of hope, yet in Christ we already possess a blessed immortality and glory; and therefore, he adds, in Christ Jesus. Hitherto it does not appear in the members, but only in the head; yet, in consequence of the secret union, it belongs truly to the members.

Goodwin:

John 5:24 and 25 express the two ideas “quicken” and “raised us up”

John 5:24-25 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. (25) Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live."