



# SEATED WITH CHRIST

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First let's consider the passage in Ephesians that tells us we are seated with Christ in heavenly places.

## EPHESIANS 2:6 ESV

*... and raised us up with Him and **seated us with Him in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus,*

Do we actually believe this? Do we act as though we believe this? Are we seated with Christ in heavenly places? Is this for now, or sometime in the future? The answers may determine our effectiveness in the battles throughout this life. This must travel the distance from the head to the heart. Is it in our spirit? We must move from knowledge, giving mental assent to this truth, to a position rooted in faith, believing it to be so.

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Let's take a look at the first ten verses of chapter 2 of Paul's letter to the Ekklesia at Ephesus. The context may help us to gain a better understanding of what Paul was communicating in this letter.

- Past, present, and future of believers.
  - Verses 1-3: what we were.
  - Verses 4-6, 8-9: what we are.
  - Verses 7, 10: what we will be.

- Six aspects of salvation:
  - Verses 1-3: it is from sin.
  - Verse 4: by love.
  - Verse 5: into life.
  - Verses 6-7: with a purpose.
  - Verses 8-9: through faith.
  - Verse 10: unto good works.



# EPHESIANS 2:1 ESV

*And **you were dead** in the trespasses and  
sins*

Verse one shows the tone of our lives before coming to faith in Christ. Our spirits were in need of an infusion of life by the touch of God. We could not clearly perceive or understand things of a spiritual nature for we were dead.

## EPHESIANS 2:2 ESV

*in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience –*

We wanted a life that we perceived as good, easy, and satisfying. The deception of the devil and his demonic cohorts completely distorted things for us and we selfishly sought to satisfy our own lusts and desires. Our father (of that time) was not loving, and his demands were not for our good. We were trapped in a system that required more than we could give. A deliverer, a savior, was required if we were to be rescued from such slavery.

## EPHESIANS 2:3 ESV

*among whom **we all once lived in the passions of our flesh**, carrying out the desires of the body and mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

As revealed in chapter one, God had made a plan for our deliverance, and He did it before the creation of the world. The true loving Father in heaven knew of our need and provided a way of escape from the dreadful system. For we were seeking to fulfill our selfish desires as we lived in the world alongside every evil rather than loving one another and living for something bigger than our own desires.

## EPHESIANS 2:4 ESV

**But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which **He loved us**,

Though we had no spiritual life to perceive spiritual things, God took it upon Himself to save us from the one who looked to destroy us. The Father made a way for us to be linked to His Son, in heavenly places, that we may have restored unto us the life He intended for us.



## EPHESIANS 2:5-7 ESV

*even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

God is the one that made this possible and we will have no place to boast of saving ourselves. The Father draws us to the Son, and we simply need to have faith, that is, to believe what God is telling us to be truth and trust in Him.

## HEBREWS 11:6 ESV

*And **without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.*

This sort of faith can be summed up as this:

- We must believe that God is who He says He is.
- We must believe that we are who God says we are.
- We must believe that God will do what He says He will do.

Again, this is not merely head knowledge, but knowing it to be true in our heart.

Here the reward for such faith is deliverance from the oppressor and our adoption into the family of God. God not only provides for our deliverance, but He also provides us with the faith to believe – all by the gift of His grace freely given to us.

## EPHESIANS 2:8-9 ESV

**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

Again, there are no grounds on which we can boast of our own escape from the enemy as it was all provided for by God. We simply needed to receive the gift, and trust in God and His word. God created us to do good works, not to do the evil that the enemy would have us do.

## EPHESIANS 2:10 ESV

*For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*



That is the story of the reason for our creation, and the salvation we received by grace through faith.

Do we see ourselves seated with Christ in heavenly places? Physically we are here on this earth at this time. I do not believe our spirit is so limited. Are we able to receive what Paul is saying? If not, perhaps we need to seek God, asking for revelation and greater faith to believe Paul's message.

Paul reiterates this message in chapter 3 of his letter to the Ekklesia at Colossae. Like the letter to the Ephesians, this letter is written to believers. Paul begins with that qualification.

## COLOSSIANS 3:1 ESV

*If then you have been **raised with Christ**,  
seek the things that are above, where  
Christ is, **seated at the right hand of God**.*

Paul tells us where Christ is and what we, as believers and disciples, are to focus upon.

## COLOSSIANS 3:2 ESV

*Set your minds on things that are above,  
not on things that are on earth.*

Paul then tells us why we can do that, and where our life really is.

# COLOSSIANS 3:3 ESV

*For you have died, and **your life is hidden  
with Christ in God.***



Our baptism, after we have surrendered our lives to Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord, attests to the truth of our life being hidden in Christ. By faith we participate in the burial and resurrection of Jesus as we go under, then rise out of the water. Paul then tells us of the victory we have in Christ Jesus.

## COLOSSIANS 3:4 ESV

*When Christ who is your life appears, then  
you also will appear with Him in glory.*

Is Christ our life? If not, perhaps we need to reevaluate our situation.

This chapter has so much more to offer in how we ought to live from putting off what is evil, to putting on what is good and righteous in the sight of God. And as in chapter 2 of Ephesians, Paul promotes unity in the body of Christ.

It will take a paradigm shift to move our thought processes from the things of this world to the things above. This needs to get deep into our spirit so we can focus on our position seated with Christ in heavenly places, rather than focusing on the physical location of our body. It is true our body is here right now. It is equally true that our spirit is linked to Christ.

One day, however, we will be completely seated with Christ, where He is. The apostle John instructs us concerning what is in store for us in the future.

## REVELATION 20:4 ESV

Then I saw **thrones, and seated on them were those to whom authority to judge** was committed.

Also I saw **the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

This is a picture of those who partook in the first resurrection. They are overcomers who are faithful and loyal to Christ Jesus. This will mess with a lot of people's beliefs concerning a pre-tribulation rapture. But that's another study. Consider verses 5 and 6.



## REVELATION 20:5-6 ESV

*The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with Him for a thousand years.*

We Christians talk about not being part of this world, and that this is not our home. But how are we living? By examining our lives we will learn what our beliefs really are. Are we focused on this life and the things of this world? Or are we focused on the things above? Has it really gotten into our spirit?

In a related thought, how do we view ourselves as members of the body of Christ?

# 1 CORINTHIANS 12:26-27 ESV

*If one member suffers, all suffer together;  
if one member is honored, all rejoice  
together. Now **you are the body of Christ**  
and individually members of it.*

This points to the unity of the body, the believers, and the identity of the group as a whole, of which we are parts. Christ Jesus is the head, and we are the remaining parts. Which part are we? We each have a role, gifts, and talents.

## EPHESIANS 4:11-12 ESV

*And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, **for building up the body of Christ,***

Have we given ourselves wholly to Christ Jesus, and Almighty God, to work for the kingdom in obedience in love? Can we visualize ourselves as an extension of Christ Jesus, doing His will as part of His body?

Are we completely on board with the plan of God, and sold out to serving God through obedience in love?