Intro: 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-7

The Two key verses in Ephesians are 2:8, 9 and 5:1.

Intro: This chapter deals with the Christian believer’s life. From where they were, where they, where they are going, and not to forget who you are. It will be in a 5-part series entitled “Remember”.

I. God’s Mercy and Love has made us alive in Christ – 4 But God, being *rich in mercy*, because of *the great love* with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, *made us alive together with Christ*— by grace you have been saved

a. It is in God’s nature to make us alive again

• It is God’s nature to care for, nurture, and help the weak and dying. How can He not for He is love (agape). The greatest form of love you can have, and it is a perfect love that only God can give. So, yes, it is in God’s nature to care for the lost, who are dying in sin.

° 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. John 10:11-15

b. We were made alive for God’s purpose

• Everything we say or do is according to His divine purpose and will. Our being “made alive in Christ” was in order for us to fulfill His divine will.

° 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

c. We were made alive through the power of Christ

• It is only through the power of Christ, who has the power of life in His might, to give us life, when we are the walking dead.

° 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:15, 16

II. God’s Mercy and Love raised us up with Christ – 6 *and raised us up with him and seated us with him* in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

a. We will be raised with him in the next life

• So, the words “made us alive together with Christ” came after He talks about sin and death. In fact, verses 1–5 are a comment to what Paul started out to say, and that is Christ has been exalted and enthroned, so we who have been made alive have become a part of a new humanity. All who take part in this new life can equally claim to “sit with Him in heavenly places.” This is referring to the new Heaven and new earth. It is God’s grace that saved us, but it is God’s mercy and love that sustains us until we reach the new world.

° 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5

b. We are being raised with him in this life

° 1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:1-4

c. Jesus Christ died for the world

• There is no greater heroic act than someone who is of noble character dying for someone who is considered an outcast and worthless. We were considered an outcast because of sin, and it was sin that has made us worthless in our eyes, but we are the apple of God’s eye, and He saw that we were worth saving. It cost Him a great deal, but for us it was a price we could not pay. So, Jesus came, and He paid our sin debt on the cross of Calvary.

° 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. Romans 5:8, 9

III. God’s Mercy and Love has seated us in a heavenly realm – 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him *in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

a. This realm is in heaven

• We will one day be glorified with Christ in heaven. From “that where I am there you may be also” to “we will be also glorified together” teaches us that all we have come directly from God Himself.

° 27 John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. John 3:27

b. This realm can be on the earth

• The power that has raised Christ from the dead is the same power that will give you control over your sin, enemies, and yourself. There is nothing that can separate you from God. You have been seated at his right hand with the power of victory at your disposal. And this is made possible by the mercy and love of Jesus Christ.

° 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:10

IV. God’s Mercy and Love showed us the riches of Grace – 7 so that in the coming ages *he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace* in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

a. He has done great things through Christ

• I have often wondered, just what were those “other great things” that we don’t know about. There were so many that John used hyperbole to describe just how many he did. Think about that. We are privy to the ones we do know but how much more did he have to do, and how great was their lack of faith to not see Him for who He was, Emmanual (God with us).

° 25 Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. John 21:25

b. We will be eternal glorified through God’s grace

• God is going to be eternally glorified through Christ for His grace, mercy, and love towards us. The word “ages” (aiosin) means ages after ages upon ages to come. This verse was not only meant for the Ephesian church, in the 60 a.d., but it was meant for us today, in the year 2023. We will continue to glorify the Great I AM, through all eternity. Every tongue, every creature, every tree, every rock, will lift their voice in praise.

° 40 He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” Luke 19:40

° 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.
20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Romans 1:19-20