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## From Wrath to Riches

The love of God for His people is vividly described by the Apostle Paul by showing the contrast between what we accomplished for ourselves and what God accomplished for us. Let's look at the text:

### Ephesians 2:1-7

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>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—<sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

In verses 1-3 we see what we humans have accomplished for ourselves—namely, death (v.1), enslavement to the world (v.2a), to the devil (v.2b), and to our flesh (v.3a), and condemnation under the wrath of God (v.3b). This is a very grim, even ghastly, description of fallen human nature, but a very realistic one. Apart from the grace of God, we have no interest in the things of God, nor do we want to please Him. Because of His holiness, He must therefore look upon our natural selves with His righteous anger.

But notice in verse 4 these wonderful two words, “But God.” Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, “These two words, in and of themselves, in a sense contain the whole of the gospel.” Here, in verses 4-6, the Apostle describes what God has accomplished on our behalf. He makes up three new words to describe God's miraculous actions, each beginning with the prefix “syn,” which means “together with.” Paul writes that God has “made us alive together with” and “raised us up with” and “seated us with” Jesus Christ. We are the objects of God's “mercy,” “love,” “grace,” and “kindness.”

In verse 7, Paul takes us to the heights of redemption's story by showing us what God has accomplished for Himself—He has prepared a cosmic display of His gracious character to be revealed at the second coming of Christ. This is the great end of our salvation—the glory of God.

### Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important for us to understand and believe the biblical description of our natural human condition?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why is this description so unpopular today?

