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Seated in Heavenly Places.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Seated in Heavenly Places.

Topics.

- God has seated us with Christ in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
 - Dead in trespasses and sins.
 - God's immeasurable greatness.
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INTRODUCTION

This study looks at what Paul had in mind and what he meant when he said that those in Christ have being raised us up with the Lord and seated with him in the heavenly places.

GOD HAS SEATED US WITH CHRIST IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS

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

Immeasurable; (Exceeding in KJV) in this context carries the idea of something that abundantly and exceeding surpasses and excels far beyond and above what is considered normal.

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DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS

A person who is dead in trespasses and sins is in a state of conformity to this world and as such has no desire for the spiritual pleasures of God. When we look upon a corpse, it gives an awful feeling, we see the life has gone and left nothing but the ruins of that person. Paul viewed those who are, "Dead in their trespasses and sins" as being spiritually dead for the following two reasons:

1. They are without Christ through who God's eternal love and the fountain of His rich mercy and undeserved grace flows.
2. Whoever is without God's grace is not an heir of eternal life, but remains destined to eternal death.

Just as we feel that awfulness upon seeing a corpse, it is most certain that Paul felt this same awfulness toward those without Christ and that this awfulness (which is really deep compassion and concern) was the motivating power that drove him with outstanding zeal to proclaim the saving power of the Good News of the Gospel even at the risk of his own life.

Heavenly places in this context carry the following two ideas:

1. The fact that those in Christ are delivered from the condemnation of the law and the sentence of eternal death into the glorious eternal Kingdom of God. It refers to their sins being forgiven, the favour and fellowship they have with God and with Christ, the grace that God has lavished upon them because of their devotion and love for His Son and

to God's majestic and guaranteed promise of eternal life and everlasting glory. The words of Paul, "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" mean that the faithful in Christ have by faith and God's grace been raised up with Christ and are seated with him in spiritual places far beyond any riches this earthly and material world has. Paul is able to speak of this majestic event in the past tense or as though it has already taken place because it is a reality by faith in the mind of all who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. Added to this it is based on God's promise and He cannot lie therefore it is guaranteed.

2. The word, heavenly from Strong's Concordance carries the idea of elevation and can refer to a heavenly state of the mind. Thus the words, "Seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" can also carry the idea of the mind being lifted up into high places of joy, peace and love by the Gospel of Christ since the faithful in Christ are aware of all the majestic glorious and eternal blessings they have in Christ and that knowledge elevates the mind into a glorious state of joy, peace, contentment and wonder. It is similar to when a secular person has a fabulous day or a great win and shouts in exuberant excitement and joy, "Wow I'm in heavenly places." It's a spiritual way of saying that the mind is in an elevated state of joy and of well-being.

GOD'S IMMEASURABLE GREATNESS

The words "That in the coming ages God might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" also refer to two things:

- 1 The resurrection: God by His awesome creative power gloriously raised Christ one man from the dead, but at the resurrection God by His awe-inspiring and breath-taking power will literally raise multitudes who are sleeping in Christ from the dead to eternal and everlasting glory and all this in the twinkling of an eye. This will be an absolutely stunning event which will by far surpass the power of any thunderstorm, lightning strike or tornado that this world has ever seen. It goes without saying all who see this glory will stand in awesome and breath-taking wonder as they witness the immeasurable riches of God's grace and kindness toward those who have loved and been faithful to His Son.
- 2 To the wonder and glory of the following majestic vision that a godly man on the isle of Patmos saw and wrote:
 - I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband and a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore (Rev. 21:2-4).
 - I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. The city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb (Rev 21:22-23).
 - No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads and night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever (Revelation22:3-4).

Is there any other religion on the face of our planet that proclaims such a majestic and glorious eternal hope? This author has not found one. This is why Paul is able to speak of those in Christ as being seated in heavenly places. It is a term that conveys the thought that someone that was dead in sin (unsaved and unclean) now knows the riches and wealth and

abundance of God's love, grace and mercy in the inner man. Their spirit that was once dead in sin and void of God is now raise to a life that is joyfully alive to God, having the full assurance of inheriting eternal life in the eternal Kingdom of God.

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