

CALL to PRAYER - Give thanks for heat when God makes it cold. (Matt. 24:20)

Ephesians 2:4-7 - From the Outhouse to the Penthouse

Intro – Have you ever heard the saying, “*It is a quick trip from the penthouse to the outhouse.*”? It is used in sports when a team (or individual) goes from the top of their game to bottoming out really fast...or of a rapid fall from grace that happens to a celebrity (everyone loves to everyone hates) ...or a business tycoon that has it all then loses it all overnight (SBF - billions to behind bars). Today I want to turn that saying around backwards. Humanity did have a great “*fall from grace*” after we sinned. We went from reflecting God’s image and having dominion... to being broken images that were dominated by sin. It was a *quick ride from the penthouse to the outhouse* for sinful humanity. But redeemed humanity has a reversed trip and that script is flipped in Christ. The church has gone *from the outhouse to the penthouse*. Actually...it is even more than that. Redeemed sinners have been brought from below the outhouse and have been exalted to above the penthouse. The distance between their humiliation in sin to their exaltation in Christ is unimaginable. The greatness of God’s grace that carried them from *below the outhouse to above the penthouse* is incomprehensible. God’s salvation of sinners is so magnificent that all the praise down here is inadequate to describe it. It will take “*the age to come*” to come close to understanding our inconceivable conversion. The eternal state will be filled with eternal wonder of what God has done for undeserving sinners. Angels are in awe of such an action, and we should be as well. Ps. 70:4 WHERE WE WERE WHERE WE ARE WHAT IS TO COME

WHERE WE WERE

- Eph. 2:4-5 “*Dead in our sin*” is a description of where every Christian has been.
 - Before the Lord saved us, we were in a sorry condition.
 - We lacked spiritual life.
 - We were unresponsive corpses - Eph. 2:1-2 Children of wrath – Eph. 2:3
 - This “*death in sin*” rendered us incapable of pleasing God – Rom. 8:7-8
- This dire and “dead” condition extended to our entire self
 - Isaiah 1:4-6
 - There is not a special carved-out area of our lives that is unaffected by sin.
 - Every aspect of our existence is tainted by sin’s death grip
 - Body...soul...spirit...mind...emotion...thoughts...actions...will...desires
 - We are not as bad as we could be, but we are bad completely. Rom. 3:9-18
- We have a hard time conceiving how bad our corruption is as sinners.
 - Sin is not just what we do... it is who we are. (“To err is human...”)
 - We have the nature of a rebel because our first father Adam was a rebel
 - We are stamped with a defect in our DNA. (imperfect from the start & impossible to self-fix)
 - Our sin is inherent, and sin is all we know in our natural state
- WHERE WE WERE.... We were dead, lifeless & living as a rebel against our Creator
 - Not just in the “*outhouse*” but corpses buried below the “*outhouse*”

WHERE WE ARE

- We are ALIVE 2:4-5
 - This is regeneration/new birth John 3:3-7
 - This is God making us a “new creation” 2 Cor. 5:17
 - God worked a resurrection miracle for every believer - going from death to life
 - Col. 2:13
- We are ALIVE IN CHRIST 2:5
 - Christ’s resurrection is our resurrection 1 Peter 1:3
 - Baptism is a picture of the resurrection and of our union with Christ.
 - Rom. 6:4
 - We live because He lives....and we live IN HIM
- We are SEATED WITH CHRIST 2:6
 - Where did Jesus go after the resurrection? Acts 2:32-34
 - Since the Christian is *in Christ*, he is now seated with Christ in the heavenlies.
 - To be *in Christ* means that Jesus’ life...death...burial...resurrection...ascension are ours. The believer benefits from all of who Christ is & all of what Christ did.
 - This is an incomprehensible blessing and promise
 - Redeemed sinners will sit with Jesus Christ. Rev. 3:21-22
 - We are positioned there now *in Christ* and will be there soon with Christ
- Redeemed sinners have gone from below the outhouse to above the penthouse
 - This amazing transition transcends our capability to communicate or understand

WHAT IS TO COME

- This age is inadequate to describe the mercy, love, grace and kindness of God toward sinners so the age to come will encompass this great task.
 - 2:7
 - We cannot fully grasp it in this age but will be enamored by it in the age to come
- Angels are in awe in what God has done for sinful man.
 - Eph. 3:10
 - Angels long to look into the beauty of the gospel - 1 Peter 1:12
 - Angels praise Jesus for His amazing redemption of sinners - Rev. 5:9-10
 - Going from below the outhouse to above the penthouse elicits great praise
- Job. 25:4-6
 - Let me attempt an inadequate illustration of God’s amazing salvation of us
 - A man had a worm farm...his worms rebelled.... (I would just go fishing with them) But this man had compassion on the worms and sent his son to live with the worms and sacrifice himself for the worms. He even gave the worms his rightful place in family. The neighbors looked at this man and his son and were amazed that a father & son would love and show such kindness to a bunch of wicked worms....
 - *Alas and did my Savior bleed and did my Sovereign die? Would He devote that sacred Head for a worm such as I?*
 - *Was it for crimes that that I had done He groaned upon that tree, Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!*
 - *Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut its glories in, When Christ the mighty Maker died, for man the creatures sin*

In this age and in the age to come angels will ask themselves, “*Can you believe God did this...?*”

And when we’ve been there 10,000 years bright shining as the sun....