

“You He Made Alive” – “Raised Us Up Together”

Psa 18:28 – For You will *light* my lamp; the Lord my God will *enlighten* my darkness. **19:8** – The commandment of the Lord is pure, *enlightening* the eyes. **119:18** – *Open* my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.

A. **David expressed** the power of God’s word to make “things” (His will) plain & easy to understand.

1. It’s like when someone says, “I can see that.” They mean, “I understand what you’re saying”.
2. When two people cannot agree on what the Bible teaches, one or both do not understand God.
3. When people do not obey the gospel, it is because they do not understand God.
 - a. They may repeat His word, but the eyes of their understanding are shut (e.g. **Matt 13:13-16; 15:10-16**).

B. **The Holy Spirit** enabled the apostles to enlighten the eyes of our understanding (**Eph 1:15-23**).

1. Paul wrote those words to Christians, & yet they still need enlightening.
 - a. They were enlightened enough to know why they must come to Christ & how to become a Christian.
 - b. But there was no guarantee that they would continue to be enlightened (to grow in their understanding of God’s will), so Paul prayed for them.
2. There were three things Paul wanted them to see with the eyes of their understanding; he wanted to enlighten them on these things.
 - a. “*That you may know...the hope of His calling*” (**18**) – that they were called out of a sinful world with the desire & expectation of receiving something better.

- b. Paul wanted them to see, “*the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints*” (18) – that they were richest family of all times, because they were God’s family.
- c. Paul wanted them to see “*the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe*” (19) – which God manifested by raising Jesus from the dead & setting His at the right hand to rule over all things.

[Like the Ephesians, we too, who are in Christ, need the eyes of our understanding [heart, cf. footnote] enlightened from time to time.]

I. ENLIGHTENED: OUR CONDITION BEFORE WE KNEW CHRIST

- A. Before the Ephesians answered gospel call, they were living – but they were not alive (Eph 2:1-3).

1. How is that possible? We must have a dual nature: body & spirit; while the body is alive (doing great & noble things), the spirit can be dead.
 - a. Paul referred to our 3-fold nature (1 Thess 5:23).
 - 1) BODY -- sense-conscious (five senses)
 - 2) SOUL -- self-conscious (all people)
 - 3) SPIRIT -- God-conscious (saints)
2. What has the power to kill the spirit? Sin & transgression of God’s law (Jas 1:15; Matt 10:28).
 - a. The Ephesians took a course that led them far away from God, the Source of life, & kept them under the control of an evil spirit prince.
 - b. ONE GLORIOUS DAY, THAT ALL CHANGED (Eph 2:4-6; Rom 5:6-9) – {Romans explains Ephesians}

II. ENLIGHTENED: WHEN OUR CONDITION CHANGED

A. We have the historical record of the very moment the Ephesians came back to life (Acts 19:1-5).

1. A Calvinist would argue that since man is spiritual dead then he cannot respond to God until God gives him life; in other words, man must be saved before he can actively obey God.

a. But the Scripture teaches that God gave man, who is dead in his sins, the seed that would bring him back to life (Lk 8:11; 1 Pet 1:23).

B. In Paul's letter to the church at Colossae, he shows us that a dead soul can respond to God (Col 2:12-13).

1. Paul said they were "raised with Christ" & "made alive together with Him" (12, 13) – those phrases mean the same thing; they mean that someone who is dead spiritually has been give life again.

2. **How** were they "raised with Christ" & "made alive together with Him"? "Through faith in the working of God, who raised Jesus from the dead" (12).

3. **When** were they "raised with Christ" & "made alive together..."? "Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him" (12; 4:5).

a. That's when they "trusted" Christ (1:13).

b. That's when they were "saved by grace through faith" (2:8).

c. That's when they were sanctified & cleansed "with the washing of water by the word" (5:26).

4. **What** did God do to bring them back to life? "You...He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses" (13).

[So a dead spirit does have the power to act on its own behalf; it is not comatose (coma) nor is it non existent, it is simply separated from the life God (Eph 4:18; Isa 59:2).

But if a dead spirit wants to live again, it must come into contact with something that has life giving power (**Rom 1:16; Rom 10:17; 1 Pet 1:23**) – and respond to it as did the Ephesians & Colossians.]

III. ENLIGHTENED: THE NEW PURPOSE FOR OUR NEW CONDITION

A. **God's purpose** in raising us up with Christ & giving us life is expressed thoroughly throughout the NT.

Eph 2:10 – For ***we are His workmanship***, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. **Eph 5:1-2** – Therefore be ***imitators of God*** as dear children. 2 And ***walk in love***, as Christ also has loved us & given Himself for us, an offering & a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Col 1:27-28 – Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we preach, warning every man & teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present ***every man perfect in Christ Jesus***.

Gal 3:27 – For as many of you as were baptized into Christ [**Rom 6**] have ***put on Christ***. **Gal 4:19** – My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until ***Christ is formed in you***,

Rom 8:29 – For whom He foreknew, He also predestined ***to be conformed to the image of His Son***, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- I hope we've been enlightened by this study.
- A subject like this one ought to make overflowing with gratitude.
- If we're indifferent about it, then we're not as thankful as we ought to be.
- We can lose sight of what an incredible act of love, grace & mercy God has done by giving life to our souls.
- We can be like a child who was so excited about his new toy, but a few days later he replaced it with something newer.
- We can so pamper ourselves in this world that we fail to appreciate being raised with Christ & alive in Him.
- If your soul is dead, right now is the time to act – God will bring you to life.
- If you need to start pursuing the example of Christ with more vigor, enthusiasm, commitment & determination, begin this very moment – because there is a raising to life with Christ coming that you dare not miss (**Col 3:1-4; 1 Cor 6:14; 2 Cor 4:14**).

God's Plan For Our Salvation:

Hear the gospel of Christ: Acts 2; 3; 13; Rom 10:17

Believe Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of God: John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31

Repent of sin: Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

Confess faith in Christ: Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

Baptized for the forgiveness of sins: Gal 3:27; Rom 6:3-4; Acts 2:38

Obedient to Christ: Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2:10; John 12:48