**Working While we are Seated**

**Lesson #3: Ephesians 2:1-10**

**Introduction**

The grand story continues to unfold. Having just talked about our spiritual possessions, Paul turns his attention to our spiritual position.

Our being positioned in Christ (“seated”) has a significant purpose.

**Our Predicament: (2:1-4)**

In our “old life,” we were DEAD

Dead in our sins

“Dead:” not weakened, sick, or disabled. “Nekros:” a corpse cannot revive itself.

“IN:” within the sphere of sin or an aquarium of sin. See Rom. 3:11-23

“Sin:”

 a. To fall outside the lines- to deviate from the right way to live (See Gen. 3)

 b. To miss the mark-to deviate from God’s righteous character

 We were LOST, SEPARATED from God, BLIND, ENSLAVED,HELPLESS

Objects of Wrath

God is loving, but He is also just. With a holy and righteous standard, he judges sin. He rejects unrepentant sinners. Consider Ex. 34:7 “…maintaining love to thousands and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished…”

**Our Rescue: (2:4-5)**

 “Because of His great love”

 Chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven: LAVISHED on us all (1:8)

 “Made alive”

 Consider the story in Luke 7

 The Gift of God:

By grace

Through faith

Not of yourself

**His Purpose: (2:6-10)**

1. In the Future:

 “Raised Up”

 The promise of the resurrection

 Consider the story in John 11

 “Seated Us”

 Our eternal “position” is ruling and reigning with Christ for all eternity.

 See Dan. 7:27, II Tim.2:12 and Rev. 5:10

1. For NOW:

“Created to do good works”-WORK for HIM!

WORK was “prepared for us.” It came BEFORE the fall. (See Gen.2:15)

WORK in heaven: See Rev. 5:9-10

(For a refreshing view of the details associated with heaven, read Randy Alcorn’s book *Heaven.)*

**WORK NOW!**

“Workmanship”or “Masterpiece”- God’s “poetic expression”

 Consider the words of the song: *Remind me who I Am*

 We are entrusted with His Gifts:

 See I Peter 4:10-11

 Spiritual Gifts:

Rom. 12:6-8: prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, showing mercy

I Cor. 12:8-10: message of wisdom, message of knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing spirits, tongues

 I Peter 4:11: speaking, serving

God Given Talents: Music, dance, hospitality, woodworking, gardening, gift of “gab,” cooking, ease with children, mechanical abilities

God Given Opportunities: Time, networking

We are entrusted to do “good works.”

 In General-love your neighbor (Mark 12:30-31), love your enemy (Matt. 5:44)

 Specifically, in your Spiritual Community-get involved!

 “…fan into flame the gift of God which is in you…”