

Vs.6- Paul has just stated that God quickens sinners who are dead in trespasses and sins

- he immediately follows with the fact that God doesn't leave us in that condition- He "raised us up"
- the sinner is quickened in his sins and then immediately is made alive to righteousness
(when God raises that person out of sin, that person becomes dead to sin- Rom.6:2)
- "sit together"- this means to be at rest and also means a communing or fellowship
- "in Christ"- the "heavenly places" are where the blessings, treasures, and inheritance are
(this all becomes a reality from our union with the Lord Jesus)

Vs.7- "ages to come"- this is once the church is gone

- *God has already given us a taste of His exceeding riches by means of salvation and a new life in Christ
(it is in Heaven where we'll fully see the extent of His grace and kindness)
- "through Christ"- all of God's grace and kindness are given to those because of Christ's finished work
- Vs.8- "by grace"- meaning that this is what God did for mankind and not what mankind did for God or himself
- "are"- this verb is perfect tense in Greek- this means we have been saved from our past, just as thoroughly saved now, and will be forever (yet another proof of eternal security)
- "through"- by means of
- "faith"- (pistis) persuasion or complete convincing of truth
(this means the truth that God is Creator, Ruler, and Provider- the One that bestows salvation)
- "not of yourselves"- meaning of no human merit
- "gift"- (doron) a sacrifice made in order for someone else to benefit

Truth- a gift cannot be earned (wages are earned)

*a gift is given to someone out of love to show that love- Rom.5:8

Vs.9- "not of works"- this ends any debate on whether or not man can be "good enough"

(these works would include man's actions, deeds, or morals)

- "boast"- Paul knows how fallen humanity is and if we could earn this wonderful gift then it would put God in man's debt

Truth- works are the fruit of salvation, not the root of salvation (a living faith is a functioning faith)

Vs.10- "His workmanship"- (poiema) this is where we get the English word for poem or poetry

*it is a creation term that implies a masterpiece or a work of art

*the idea of this word is something that is made from nothing and originates in the mind of the author

Truth- poems come to be once spoken or written down

(the world was spoken into existence, and God writes our names down when He raises us up from the deadness of our sins)

- "created in Christ"- this phrase means a complete changing or transforming
(this ends all ideas on a person that claims salvation and yet has never been changed)
- "good works"- this is our functioning faith and where God gets His glory from the work He's done in us
- Truth- we are saved apart from works but saved unto good works- James 2:17-18
(works are the aim of our salvation and the evidence of faith)

Vs.11- Gentiles- all who are not born Jews- Paul notes that they were called this by the Jews as they were considered outcasts and objects of reproach

(the Jews had actually become boastful of their national heritage as God's chosen people)

- "made by hands"- Paul's meaning here was to show that this rite once used as a sign for spiritual promise was used now only as superficial with little to no value

vs.12- Notice the 5 things Paul points out to remind them of how far off they were at one time

1- "without Christ"- they had no Savior 2- "aliens"- one who is shut out from fellowship

- a commonwealth means a citizenship (they were never God's people or had national heritage)

3- "strangers"- they were never in a covenant with God 4- "no hope"- this is the result of the first 3

5- "without god"- they only had dead pagan deities and didn't know the One, True God

Vs.13- here's another "But God" moment

Truth- vs.12 is who they were, but now God has drawn them to Him in an everlasting covenant