How God Rescues Us

Lesson 4, 3rd Quarter July 13–21, 2025

Sabbath Afternoon July 15

Memory Text:

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;" KJV—Ephesians 2:4, 5

"O, cannot the sinner understand that Christ invited his divinity with humanity, in order that he might reach humanity with his arm of love, that he might lay hold of the human nature, that he might, and that no soul shall enter the portals of bliss unless he obeys the laws of the kingdom of God? Christ invited the human family to binding union with God, in order that, through obedience to the divine precepts, man might be brought back to loyalty to God. Every sinner converted to God must be in conformity to all the commandments of God, Jesus lived among men, consuming himself by continual self-denial and in labors of love. The fact that Christ lived among men in human nature is a testimony to us that God is with us, God dwells with us in our human nature. Christ lived in our nature in every organ that is affected, tastes the sorrows and disappointments of every man, regards the treatment that is given to father, mother, brother, sister, friend, and neighbor. He understands our necessities, and his Redeemer Spirit is the strong hand with which his love, mercy, and grace shall flow to satisfy our need." ST April 11, 1895, par. 6

Sunday, July 16

Once Dead and deceived by Satan

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What is the main idea that Paul is giving us here about what Jesus has done for us?

"You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." RH March 31, 1904, par. 7

"Spiritual death is here spoken of. How many there are who are unregenerate, and in consequence spiritually dead. They are passing on, in harmony with the world and with Satan, to the second death, which is eternal separation from God. They are in darkness and without God and without hope. Sin, and death venerable then, they would be found unchanged, they would be found in their sins, in their dark life. They do not look upon the conflict against sin, the warfare against principalities and powers, as essential. They are in need of light. Satan holds them in his power, and they are blind to the danger. They have scorned the crucifixion that cuts away from the life all that separates the soul from God. They are subject to the power of the spirit that works in the children of disobedience." RH March 31, 1904, par. 8

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace ye are saved), and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." RH May 15, 1906, par. 2

"Let us consider the representation that God wants us to make before angels and before men. By Helpful words, by the life we live, we are to show what we think of our Friend Christ. We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Let us show to angels what these words will show what a belief in the truth that Christ came to impart, will do for human beings." RH May 10, 1906, par. 4

Monday, July 17

Once Deluded by our own Desires

What does Paul mean by stating that his hearers were once "by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind" (vs. 2,3)?

"It is the gospel, and the gospel alone, that will sanctify the soul. It is this that makes possible to the receiver the life that measures with the life of God. It is the truth that sets God hath given us, even eternal life; and that life is in his Son. He who is partaker of the divine nature will escape the corruptions that are in the world through lust. His character is like the character of the divine Son. Those who submit their will to the will of God will grow in grace. A spirit of love, of self-denial, of self-sacrifice, will be manifested in their lives. The spirit of Christ will be found dwelling in their life, and the efficiency of the Spirit be seen in their works. Ibid. 1, 1905, par. 8

"When those who have had the light walk in the light, humbling the heart before God and daily conforming to his will, then the church will be to the world the salt of the earth. Upon those who uphold the principles of the Word of God will be poured the spirit of wisdom and faith for the souls ready to perish. God will put his seal of approval." Ibid. July 4, 1906, par. 9

"The apostle desired those to whom he was writing to remember that they must reveal in their lives the glorious change wrought in them by Christ's transforming grace. They were to be lights in the world, by their purified sanctified characters exerting an influence counter to the influence of satanic agencies. They were ever to remember the words, "Not of yourselves." They could not purify themselves. Hearts, and minds, and souls which were set from the tactics of Satan to take their stand for Christ, they were not able to purify unless they had the transformation wrought." RH May 10, 1906, par. 6

Tuesday, July 18

Now Resurrected, ascended and exalted with Christ

What sense do believers participate in Christ's resurrection, ascension, and exaltation? When does this participation occur? (vs. 6)

"As God raised Christ from the dead, that He might bring life and immortality to light through the gospel, and thus save His people from their sins, so He will now raise fallen human beings to spiritual life, quickening them with His life, filling their hearts with His love." RH May 14, 1904, par. 12

"Christ gave himself for the redemption of the race, that all who believe in him may have everlasting life. Those who appropriate to themselves the merits of the Son of God, the Saviour that most precious of all gifts—a clean heart, the spirit of Christ that is more valuable than gold, even fine gold, silver or precious stones. They set together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, and they are partakers of his power, and peace that he alone can give. They love him with fervency and zeal and are ready to make any sacrifice that they are his blood-bought heritage. Their spiritual eyesight is not obscured by the dust of worldly interests. They are one with Christ as he is one with the Father." RH May 30, 1907, par. 3

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; ", "who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). What is there left for us to ask, that is not included in this merciful, abundant provision? Through the merits of Christ we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. It is our privilege to know and to realize, that in the abundance of this provision, the Christian who is abiding in the presence of Christ will bring peace, freedom, courage, and power." RH October 15, 1908, par. 9

Wednesday, July 19

Now Blessed Forever by Grace

Compare God's planning for salvation in Ephesians 1:3, 4 with the eternal results of that plan described in Ephesians 2:7 What are eternal elements and goals of God's "plan of salvation"?

"The science of redemption is the science of all sciences, the science that is the song of the angels and of all the intelligences of the unfallen worlds, the science that engages the attention of angels as they look into the science that enters into the purpose brooded in the mind of the infinite God. It is a science that the angels desire to understand, the science of God's dealing with man throughout the endless ages. This is the highest study in which it is possible for man to engage. As no other study can, it will quicken the mind and uplift the soul.... ML 360.2

"The theme of redemption is one that angels desire to study; it will be the science of the song of those who redeemed throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. It will be worthy of contemplation for all eternity." ML 360.3

"The subject is inexhaustible. The study of the incarnation of Christ, his atoning sacrifice, his intercession and work will employ the mind of the diligent student as long as time shall last, and beyond this, throughout the ceaseless years, he will exclaim, Great is the mystery of godliness." ML 360.4

"In eternity we shall learn that which, had we received the enlightenment that it was possible to obtain here, would have caused our understanding to be enlarged. Our redemption will employ the hearts and minds and souls and voices of the redeemed throughout eternity. They will understand the truths which Christ taught concerning his Father's character. They will have faith to grasp, Forever and forever new views of the perfection and glory of Christ will appear. Through endless ages the redeemed will be employed bring forth from his treasures things new and old." ST April 18, 1906, par. 7

"Since God is infinite, and in Him are all the treasures of wisdom, we may be all eternity be ever searching, ever learning, yet never exhaust the riches of His wisdom, His goodness, or His power." ST April 25, 1906, par. 7

Thursday, July 20

Now Saved by Grace

Read back through Ephesians 2:1-10, focusing on Paul's conclusion in verses 8-10. What points does he highlight as the conclusion to his argument?

"The apostle desired those to whom he was writing to remember that they must reveal in their lives the glorious change wrought in them by Christ's transforming grace. They were to be lights in the world, by their purified, sanctified characters exerting an influence counter to the influence of satanic agencies. They were ever to remember the words, "Not of yourselves." They could not purify themselves. Hearts, and minds, and souls which were set from the ranks of Satan to take their stand for Christ, they were not able to purify unless they had the transformation wrought. RH May 10, 1906, par. 5

"God's workers today are to remember this. The great change that is wrought in the heart of every convertee is not brought about by any human goodness, "Not of yourselves." It is God's work, and it is God's work to be brought to repentance declare that it is only because of the guarantee he gives to the sinner who believes. RH May 15, 1906, par. 1

"He who is to be saved has important his grace to us. Then let praise and thanksgiving ascend to him, because he has become our Saviour. Let our hearts, our minds, and our voices, flow forth from our lives in rich currents of praise. When we were dead in trespasses and sins, God quickened us into spiritual life. He brought grace and power. When we were dead in sin, God raised us from passes from death to life. He now takes up his new duties in Christ's service. His life becomes true and strong, filled with good works. "Because I live," Christ said, "ye shall live also." RH May 10, 1906, par. 6

"I ask every church member to consider the words, "ye must be born again." Are you being the new life in Christ? Are you doing his work? Are you honoring him by showing the great blessing that he has given in standing under his banner? Are you so grateful to Christ for his redeeming love, so faithful and true to his service, that your lives can not be haughty, selfish, self-centered? Is watching unto prayer a part of your daily life?" RH May 15, 1906, par. 5

Further Thought

"The truly converted man has no time to think or talk of the faults of others. He is too thoroughly taken up with God's faithful witness he testifies that the grace of Christ has transformed him, and he is too busy with his own life and heart to talk discouragement and unbelief; he can not afford to be harsh and faithless. He has not received orders from God to punish the erring by heaping above upon them. RH May 15, 1906, par. 3

"My brethren and sisters, be afraid to find fault, afraid to talk against your fellow beings; lest you lose the sense that you are dependent upon God and are placed as a faithful servant you must keep his interests in view. You are to be a light to the world, a witness to the world of the child of God, under the leadership of the Captain of your salvation, that you may be prepared for active service. You have enlisted to fight against Satan's forces, and you have no time to fight against your fellow soldiers. RH May 10, 1906, par. 11

"God calls upon his church to awake to their duty, to show themselves true and loyal to the Captain of their salvation. They are to follow his example, and be pitiful, courteous, be faithful to him who loves them, and who has given them a place in his army." RH May 10, 1906, par. 12