



# **THE FUTURE TODAY!**

**Prophecy Meetings**

**Seated with Christ in Heaven!**

**Ephesians 2:1-7**

**Sermon given on May 29, 2022**



**Sunday Afternoon Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# Seated with Christ in Heaven!

## *Ephesians 2:1-7*

### Opening Comments

- Welcome to the **FUTURE TODAY** prophecy meeting
- Turn to **Ephesians 2**
- The purpose of this series is to “Look at what God said in the past about the future to better understand today!”
- Today – the time we are living in today is a confusing time
- Our country is threatening to tear itself apart over whether or not a woman has a right to murder her baby in the womb or maybe even after it is born
- Or if parents have a right to have a say in whether or not their children are taught perverse sexual ideologies in public schools
- And then an 18-year-old shoots and kills a bunch of kids in Texas
- It is hard to see all these attacks against the innocent and most vulnerable without becoming discouraged, or maybe even afraid
- When will all this evil end?
- In the Tuesday morning Bible study, we are in chapter 19, and next Tuesday we will answer that question
- Evil will end when Jesus comes back **Revelation 19:15**  
**Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**
- Until then we need to stand in the truth **Ephesians 6:11-13**  
**Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**
- Here in Ephesians 2, the apostle Paul also encourages us to be seated
- But first he reminds us that we used to be just like everyone else in the world who are causing the problems we see
- **Ephesians 2:1-3**
- This describes everyone who has not experienced the grace of God and been delivered from the power of sin through faith in Jesus Christ

- It describes all of us before we came to Christ
- Then Paul uses two words that should encourage anyone with a heart that is sensitive to God
- **Ephesians 2:4a**
- ‘But God...’ – God chose to intervene in the destiny of His creation
- Rather than just letting them suffer the eternal consequences of being children of wrath, He chose to do something to give them a different destiny
- Paul then tells us why God did it
- **Ephesians 2:4**
- Because of His mercy – He didn’t give us what we deserve and expressed His infinite love
- **Ephesians 2:5**
- God made us able to respond to His mercy and love
- **Ephesians 2:6-7**
- ‘raised us up’ = physical bodily resurrection
- I am fairly certain that none of you, like me, have been resurrected – we still have the same bodies we were born with, just with a few miles on them
- We also have not experienced sitting with Jesus in heaven
- Paul is stating it as if it is a present reality with a future manifestation
- If God has made you alive by grace through faith in Christ, then it is an absolute certainty that you will be raised to eternal life and seated with Christ in heaven forever
- It is true today
- While we are in this flesh, we are called to stand against the evil in this world by standing upon the truth of God’s Word
- But at the same time, we are seated in heaven in Christ
- Being seated has the idea of being at rest
- As we look at this world today, it might be easy to get discouraged or afraid or angry
- When you start feeling that way, sit down, lean back, and imagine yourself seated with Christ in heaven
- Rest in Him, trust Him for everything you cannot control around you

- Listen for His voice telling you how to respond to the things in this world and then do what He says
- Stand in the truth, and at the same time rest in Christ
- Remember that as Pastor Randy shares what is going on in the world