

**But God**  
*Ray Stedman*

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 2:4-6.
- B. Without God, every bit of joy and happiness would be removed because all good feeling comes from God's present activity.
- C. The grace of God alleviates our terrible condition.
- D. The guilt of man draws forth the grace of God.

II. The misery of man awakens the grace of God as well.

- A. We are in bondage to sin and controlled by Satan.
- B. God's love reaches into our monotonous boredom and misery.
- C. Man cannot help his own misery.

III. God acts on man's behalf outside the work of man.

- A. We are made alive in Christ, raised up with Him and made to sit with Him in the heavenly places.
- B. Our believing brings an entirely new life to us.
- C. We are joined with Jesus Christ and enjoy our relationship with God while nonbelievers fear it.

**Application questions:**

1. How does the gospel answer the problem of monotony and boredom?

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2. Why is man in a state of misery before God?

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3. How does the speaker describe being made alive in Christ? Why might this have significance for you?

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