

Themes from Ephesians

“The Way We Were”

Ephesians 2:1-3

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“¹ And you were **dead** in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this **world**, according to the **prince of the power of the air**, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the **lusts of our flesh**, indulging the **desires of the flesh** and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”

The first view is “I’m okay, you’re okay.”

The second view is - Man is not well and is
morally sick.

The final view is the Biblical position which Paul is articulating to the Ephesian church. The diagnosis of man is that he is not sick, but dead - that is, dead as far as his relationship to God is concerned. He is helpless in changing this state.

Genesis 2:16-17

“¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷ but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely **die.**’”

Walking Corpses

This death is unusual because man remains physically alive. He appears to have all the signs of life, but he remains spiritually dead.

D.Martyn Lloyd-Jones writes:

“They think as the world thinks. They take their opinions ready-made from their favorite newspapers. Their very appearance is controlled by the world and its changing fashions. They all conform; it must be done; they dare not disobey; they are afraid of the consequences.” (Boy, is this us!!)

We walked “according to the course of this world.”

Enslaved by the Devil as well

“² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

II Timothy 2:25-26

“²⁵ with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and **escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.**”

I John 5:19

“¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and that the **whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**”

John 8:34

“34 Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commmits sin is the **slave of sin.**’”

Titus 3:3

“³ For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, **enslaved to various lusts and pleasures**, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.”

Joshua 11:18-20

“¹⁸ Joshua waged war a long time with all these kings. ¹⁹ There was not a city which made peace with the sons of Israel except the Hivites living in Gibeon; they took them all in battle. ²⁰ For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, to meet Israel in battle in order that he might utterly destroy them, that they might **receive no mercy**, but that he might destroy them, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.”

Romans 9:13-18

“¹³ Just as it is written, ‘JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.’ ¹⁴ What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! ¹⁵ For He says to Moses, ‘I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION.’ ¹⁶ So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, ‘FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH.’ ¹⁸ **So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.”**

The Bible is clear in depicting man as dead
in sin, and not simply sick.

The world dictates the mores of the ungodly, but the Scripture dictates the morality of the Christian.

The Devil enslaves all men who can only
be set free by God.

The wrath of God is growing daily upon
all who continue to follow the lead of
Satan and His angels.

Praise God for His mercy which enabled
us to turn to Him and then be saved!