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**Ephesians 2:1-5**  
**BC/AD**  
**3/3/24**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What does your “BC” life look like? How is it different than “AD”/after Christ is the Lord?
2. What is the first thing you think of when you hear “theology”?
3. How did God call you when you were spiritually dead?
4. Look at John 1:12. What do you think that verse means?
5. What really stood out to you about this study?

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**Teaching Notes:**

Before Christ and Anno Dominis...in the year of our Lord.  
It doesn't matter who you are, where you live, what you have done or not done...your spiritual life begins with Christ as Lord.

Ephesians 2 brings a clear declaration of our condition both before Christ and after Christ.

**When we talk about these things it is a theological.**

Sometimes we can push back against theology...  
...We just want practical steps and daily applications, but...  
... theology is the study of God:Theo for God and logos for word.

**Theology is important to understand to truly know God.**

It is important to understand what God says about Himself.

**We don't just study theological ideas to...**

**...understand theological ideas.**

**We don't just try to answer theological questions...**

**...to have theological answers.**

**Theology still must still be about relationship.**

Theology should spark worship, love and a desire to obey.

It is not a theoretical understanding that matters...

...what matters is real faith in the living God...

...true forgiveness from the risen Savior...

...and the authentic filling of the Holy Spirit.

...that produces the genuine fruit of love in our lives.

**Let's break down the first sentence...**

**Big Idea: BC/AD is the dividing line for all of us?**

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

**First thing to notice...you were dead.**

**1. Before Christ we are dead.**

**Trespass = rebellion from God & Sin = our failure before God.**

**We live in a world that is stained and constantly staining us.**

We have a debt to pay, & we have a need to be cleansed.

**When people talk about how moral they are or even how many good things they have done...they don't understand the proper theological reality that sin must be paid for.**

**The key question is, what do you do about your sin?**

**But the question comes up, how can a dead man be saved?**

If we are dead, does a dead man hear the call of God?

Can a dead man do anything?

**Most orthodox people agree salvation is a work entirely of God.**

But...

**2. Before Christ, we still must respond.**

**We have a responsibility to respond and receive.**

It takes humility to admit our condition and receive from God.

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

Romans 10:9

...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Hosea 11:7 My people are bent on backsliding from Me.

Though they call to the Most High, None at all exalt *Him*.

John 12:48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

You are not born again, but by His grace you have a chance...

...You may get a glimpse, hear His voice, see some light.

**We don't exactly know or understand how it all works...**

But we know when Lazarus was dead and decaying...  
...Jesus called him out of the grave, He didn't drag him out.

**We can't hold one scripture at the cost of losing another.**

**So what was it about these trespasses and sins?**

**2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

**3. Before Christ, we were followers.**

**We all followed three things:**

the world,  
the prince of the power of the air,  
and the passions of our flesh.

**What is the problem with this world anyway?**

The course of this world follows the prince of the power of the air.

**Satan is the god of this world.**

**He works in the "power of the air"...**

**...in the sons of disobedience.**

**Air** is the invisible area around us, this may be where...

...the spiritual, invisible realm of demons and angels is.

When God gave Satan the ability to test Job, Satan came at him with sickness, natural disaster, and *the malice of people*.

**The malice of people would be the "sons of disobedience".**

**Satan works through people to hurt other people.**

If you have ever wondered, how can this world be so dark?  
How can people created in the image of God be so evil?

**It is because people are not always on their own.**

There are a lot of things we do in our flesh, but...

...there are also things that are from the pit of hell.

Jesus told the religious leaders they were of their father the devil.  
They were doing what the devil wanted them to do.

**And a lot of time that is simply...following my feelings.**

**Paul describes it like this...**

**3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

**4. Before Christ, we are stained by sin.**

We are all doing our best with what we have, before Christ...  
...but what we have is stained,  
...where we live in this world is unsafe...  
...and there is an invisible, malicious liar lurking that hates us.

**We try to deal with the guilt of our stains & other people's stains...but we just cover it up, we can't make it go away.**

A stain needs to be removed not just covered or else it comes right back up later.

And thankfully God has a better way...

**4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

**5. AD, we are alive by grace.**