

4/24/22

Dead, Disobedient, Children Of Wrath

Eph. 2.1-3

Paul continues to express the wealth of the believer in chapter two as chapter one and will till chapter three.

* He declared the possession of the believer, focusing on the transaction of redemption. Eph. 1

Paul now declares the position of the believer, focusing on the transition of salvation. Eph. 2

1. His old life. Eph. 2:1-3

2. His new life. Eph. 2:4-10

3. His old citizenship. Eph. 2:11-18

4. His new citizenship. Eph. 2:19-22

* Chapter two gives to us a beautiful picture of man's reconciliation to God and man!

We want to look at man's life without Christ, which is characterized by three truths. Eph. 2:1-3

I. The dreadful state of man. vs. 1

II. The daily walk of man. vs. 2

III. The depraved nature of man. vs. 3

I. The dreadful state of man. vs. 1

A. The apostle Paul declared that the entire human race of man is dead.

* "And you *He made alive*, who were dead."

1. The word "You" identifies the Gentiles and is emphatic in the Greek, but the Jews "we" will also be included. vs. 3
 - a. The declaration is that they were dead.
 - b. The word for death "nekros", means one who has breathed his last breath, the root word "nekus" meaning corpse.
2. The Bible reveals there are three kinds of death, physical, Spiritual and eternal death.
 - a. Physical death takes place when a person ceases to breath, the heart stops beating, brain activity terminates and the organs function no more.
 - * It is appointed unto man to die once then the judgment. Heb. 9:27
 - b. Spiritual death deals with the soul and spirit of man, this is the context.
 - 1) The word soul "psyche" in Greek is the vital force, which animates the body and shows itself in a living person, like the Hebrew word "nephesh", as God breathed into Adam the breath of life. Gen. 2:7
 - a)) The soul comprises the intellect, emotions and will of man, enslaved to sin and sin-nature before Christ.
 - b)) Jesus said, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the **soul**. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both **soul** and body in hell (Gehenna)." Matt. 10:28

- 2) The word spirit “pneuma”, in Greek is the real person, created after the image and likeness of God, Who is Spirit. Gen. 1:26; Jn. 4:24
- a)) Due to the fall, the spirit of man is dead, this is the context of our text, our previous spiritual deadness towards God before salvation, even though we were physically alive, we were spiritually dead.
- b)) We did not know God or cared for the things of God nor desired to live for the glory of God.
- c)) The phrase “He made alive” in italics means it is not in the original Greek text, but it is in verse five.
- d)) It was inserted by the translator to give the clear understanding of the connection of Paul’s previous prayer, to know the power of God by the resurrection of Jesus, in order that they grasp that this was the same power that had raised them from their spiritual dead state.
- e)) Paul is contrasting the dead old life of sin to the resurrected new life of godliness. Eph. 2:1-3; 4-10
- c. Eternal death deals with being separated from God for all eternity.
- 1) This identifies only sinners who die without Christ unrepentant.

- 2) Once physical death occurs there is no second chance to repent, men and women are lost for all eternity.
- 3) This is called the second death being judged at the White Throne Judgment. Rev. 20:14
- 4) Jude identifies apostates as twice dead, eternally separated from God! vs. 12
- B.** The apostle Paul declared the natural man is spiritually dead evident by his conduct.
* “in trespasses and sins.”
1. The word trespasses and sins are not distinguished by some and make them the same, but they are not the same.
- a. The two words are complementary to each other and chosen by the Holy Spirit to provide us a comprehensive account of human sin and evil.
- b. Both words include thoughts, words or deeds, as well as motives.
2. The word trespasses identifies our rebelliousness against God.
- a. The word trespasses “paraptomasin”, focuses on the natural man’s rebellion to do wrong or evil willfully, purposefully and deliberately in active disobedience.
- 1) Every human being is fallen, but knows right from wrong, having a God given conscience to convict him

- or her when wrong or evil is chosen over right or good.
- 2) The prohibition of doing wrong provokes fallen man to cross that line and be defiant.
- b.** The word trespasses “paraptomasin”, in the plural means to deviate from the right path, a crossing of a known boundary.
- 1) The crossing of a line or deviation from the right path, willfully violating our God-given conscience.
 - 2) Our conscience serves as an alarm before doing the wrong or a pain sensor after doing the wrong.
 - 3) The evidence is in our thought as we accuse other or excuse ourselves in what we did. Rom. 2:14-16
 - 4) The longer we trespass the more we callous our conscience and the less it works as God intended.
- 3.** The word sins identifies our failures towards God.
- a.** The word sins “harmatiais”, means to miss the mark or to fall short of a standard, again in the plural.
 - 1) All human being are imperfect and fail at various standards throughout life.
 - 2) This includes in morality, ethics and social responsibilities.
 - b.** Sins are the by-product of sin-nature, being more passive than deliberate active

as trespasses, like sins of omission, opposed to sins of commission.

- 1) We sin because we are sinners, we are the product of two other sinners.
- 2) The sin-nature of Adam by the fall passed to the entire human race, our parents transferred it to us. Rom. 5:12
- 3) A tree produces a certain kind of fruit, according to its nature.
- 4) What a contrast this is to man’s constant declaration that man is basically good!

Illustration

Man spiritually is like a man full of cancer, but unaware of it, dead while he lives. 1Tim. 5:6

* He is like the chaotic condition of the earth prior to God’s Spirit moving, without form and void. Gen. 1:1-2

Application

- 1.** Only when man acknowledges his true and dreadful state of poverty of spirit can he be saved.
 - a.** This takes place through the preaching of the gospel.

* “Faith comes being hearing and hearing by the word of God.” Rom. 10:17
 - b.** This results in conviction of their trespasses and sins, seeing them as the evidence of their spiritual deadness and separation from God and the need to repent from them.

* “Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:37-38

d. Their spirits being made alive to God, aware of His goodness and their unworthiness in need of God, totally bankrupt.

1) “Blessed *are* the poor in **spirit**, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matt. 5:3

2) “He that has the Son has life; and he who has not the Son, has not life.” 1Jn. 5:12

2. There are those who teach that man is a dichotomy, body and spirit, but the Bible teaches man is a trichotomy, body, soul and spirit.

a. Dichotomist teach the soul and the spirit are one and the same.

b. But the Scriptures do use soul and spirit at times synonymously, but they are distinct.

* Paul says, “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, **soul**, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1Thess. 5:23

c. The Scriptures clearly teach those who repent and are born again, their spirits are made alive, therefore there is a distinct difference from those not born again, who’s spirit is dead.

d. When our spirit is made alive we are able to live for God’s glory not allowing our soul, the intellect, emotions and will, reign by the old sin nature, but the new nature, presenting our body a living sacrifice to God. 2Pet. 1:3-4; Rom. 12:1-2

* “And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on *God* and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my **spirit**.” Acts 7:59

This is the dreadful state of man before coming to Christ!

II. The daily walk of man. vs. 2

A. The apostle Paul declared the natural man walks to the standards of the fallen world. vs. 2a

1. The believer that once was spiritually dead living in trespasses and sins, did so as a habit and practice of life.

* “In which you once walked.”

a. The word walk “peripateo” means to walk around, to make one’s way, to regulate one’s life or conduct one’s self.

1) Our life started as young children taught right and wrong by our parents.

2) There were people and friends from who we observed and learned good and bad things.

- 3) There was the education and social involvement in our young adult life, which shaped much of who we were.
- b. The word in the aorist active tense indicates an ongoing consistent manner of life.
 - 1) This life we once walked had a learning curve till we became proficient in trespasses and sins.
 - 2) This life we once walked had a progression of trespasses and sins.
 - 3) The learning curve and progression of our trespasses and sin included our filthy talking, our drinking, drugs and sexual sin becoming more destructive.
 - 4) The destructive progression of trespasses and sins is evident in a boy and a girl, they start holding hands, to a kiss, to petting, finally sex, if not restrained, destroying one's purity.
2. The believer that once walked in trespasses and sins, did so being man-centered.

* "according to the course of this world."

 - a. The word according "kato", identifies the enslavement of man and means down, with the idea being of dominating and controlling.
 - 1) In conformity to the lies.
 - 2) In line with ungodliness.
 - 3) In imitation of what is bad and evil.

- 4) In agreement to be a slave of trespasses and sins.
 - b. The word course "aion", indicates the period of time, it means age, "The spirit of the age" dead in trespasses and sin, of evil and darkness.
 - 1) The norms and mores of society.
 - 2) That which is not of God, but of man, traditions, fashions and fades.
 - 3) That which denies, mocks and opposes the standards of God.
 - c. The word world "kosmos", identifies fallen world order, the system that is in operation.
 - 1) This is human society and culture without God, secularism, humanism, intellectualism, etc.
 - 2) This permeates, influences, dominates and enslaves sinful men and women, holding them captive.
 - 4) Paul is saying man walks in trespasses and sins that are the manner of life and character of the time, meandering like a river seeking the easiest route!
- B.** The apostle Paul declared the natural man walks according to the rebel Satan. vs. 2b
1. The believer once walked as a slave to Satan.

* "according to the prince."

- a. The word according “kato”, again identifies the enslavement of man and means down, with the idea being of dominating and controlling.
 - 1) Satan was created perfect, the anointed cherub, second to God but he rebelled against Him and led 1/3 of the angels away from God. Ezk. 28:11-18; Rev. 12:4
 - 2) Lucifer’s five “I wills” are found in Isaiah and Ezekiel gives us God’s six “I wills” in response to His threats. Is. 14:12-14; Ezk. 28:16-18
- b. The person of Satan is identified as the prince “archon”, it means the chief ruler or commander, it has the article.
 - 1) Satan holds the first authority over this fallen world of sinful humanity.
 - 2) Jesus called Satan the prince and ruler of this world. Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11
- 2. The believer once walked under the influence of Satan.
 - * “the power of the air.”
 - a. The word power “exousia”, means he has the right and authority to govern and exert His power.
 - 1) Satan is called the god of this world. 2Cor. 4:4
 - 2) The whole world lies in the sway of the evil one. 1Jn. 5:19

- b. The place that the prince Satan can exert this authority and power is the air.
 - 1) The word air “aer” refers particularly the lower and denser air as distinguished from the higher and rarer air, the atmospheric region.
 - 2) Fallen man walks under the influence of Satan who has authority by and through his demons and fallen angels to dominate the lives of man.
 - 3) Not that every unbeliever is possessed, but influenced and dominated without being aware being spiritually dead!
- C. The apostle Paul declared the natural man is walking according to the influence of Satan over a sinners. vs. 2c
 - * “the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.”
 - 1. The phrase “the spirit” refers to Satan also.
 - a. This spirit is not some one different that the prince of the power of the air.
 - b. This is not some one opposed to the prince of the power of the air.
 - c. The spirit is the prince of the power of the air.
 - d. This again is not teaching all unbelievers are possessed, but influenced and dominated, being spiritually dead!
 - 2. This spirit is active in fallen humanity, “who now works in the sons of disobedience.”

- a. The word work “energountos”, is a participle present active.
* Literally, is now working.
- b. The sons of disobedience are those who are not saved.
 - 1) They have not been made alive spiritually, but are still dead in trespasses and sins.
 - 2) They are walking according to the course of this world.
 - 3) They are walking according to the prince of the power of the air.
 - 4) They are walking by the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, being related to the First Adam, his offspring!
* Jesus said, “Whoever commits sin is slave of sin.” Jn. 3:34b

Illustration

Man’s daily walk is dominated by sin without realizing it, just as a drug addict who is dominated by drugs, sin is addicting! Look at the Plandemic, a lie!

Application

1. All of us who are save at one time walked according to the course of this world, the prince of the power of the air that was working in us as children of disobedience, but now having been saved we can stand and do good warfare with God’s armor, overcoming Satan.

- a. “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*.” Eph. 6:12
 - b. “Do not love the **world** or the things in the **world**. If anyone loves the **world**, the love of the Father is not in him.” 1Jn. 2:15
 - c. “For all that *is* in the **world**--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the **world**.” 1Jn. 2:16
 - d. “And the **world** is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”: 1Jn. 2:17
2. The gospel is the only thing that can free man from a life of sin.
- a. “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” 2Cor. 4:3-4
 - b. “in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.” 2Tim. 2:25-26
3. Satan and his angels have no chance of being forgiven or saved, their destiny is sealed.

- a. “Yet you shall be brought down to **Sheol**, To the lowest depths of the Pit.” Is. 14:15
 - b. “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels’ Matt. 25:41
 - c. Satan is the one responsible for the evil of the nations in the world, “You who weakened the nations!” Is. 12:12e
4. Satan is over the nations, Gabriel revealed to Daniel the Satanic relation to the nations. Dan. 10:11-13
- a. “And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.”
 - b. Satan is portrayed as a roaming about as a lion, seeking whom he will devour. 1Pet. 5:8

This is the daily walk of man before knowing Christ!

III. The depraved nature of man. vs. 3

- * Man can do nothing but sin, he has no potential for righteousness and true holiness.
- A. The apostle Paul declared the natural man conducts himself by his sin nature. vs. 3a
1. Paul now includes the Jews as sons of disobedience by the phrase.
 - * “among whom also we all.”
 - a. The plural pronoun we “hemeis”, refers to the Jews.
 - b. The word all “pantas” means each, every and anyone, not one Jew is excluded, even Paul.
 2. Paul stated the Jews were as guilty as the Gentiles.
 - * “once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh.”
 - a. The phrase once conducted ourself “anestraphemen pote”, means to turn upside down, to turn here and there or behave oneself.
 - 1) The indicative aorist passive, states the past fact, “once we conducted ourselves”, as you walked! vs. 2
 - 2) The phrase is synonymous with the Gentiles walking according to the course of this world, the prince of the power of the air, all guilty before God. Rom. 1-3

- b. The Jews were as depraved as the Gentiles indicated by the phrase “the lust of the flesh”.
- 1) The phrase the lust of our flesh “epithumia tes sarkos”, means a passionate longing, a craving good or bad, depending on the context.
 - 2) Man has a potential for good, but due to sin-nature his bent is towards evil.
 - 3) The natural man is ruled by his sinful nature that produces carnal and evil desires that are wrong and bad, having nothing good to merit salvation! Rom. 7:18
 - 4) The word flesh “sarx” can be used for a physical body, the fruit of sin nature or sin nature as in our text.

B. The apostle Paul declared the natural man caters to his sin nature. vs. 3b

* “fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.”

1. Paul stated that as Jews with a sin nature, it produced evil desires and when they arose from within, they gave in to those desires.
 - a. The word fulfilling “poioutes” means to do.
 - * It is a participle present active, literally doing!
 - b. The Jews were sinners as the Gentiles, due to also having a sin nature.

- * Man without Christ can do nothing but sin, in private or public!
2. Paul stated the process of the acts of sin.
 - a. He already gave us the source, our sin nature.
 - b. He gives the personal responsibility and guilt now for the act of sin.
 - 1) The word desires of the flesh “thelema sarx”, this time **does not mean sin nature**, but what one wishes, has determined or purposed to commit due to the sinful desire coming from our sin nature and gratified by the sinful act.
 - 2) The mind “dianoia” refers to the reasoning and thought process of desire, longing and the determination to fulfill the act.
 - * The heart being evil affects the thoughts, which manifest sin by the body members. Jer. 17:9
 - 3) The problem is internal sin nature, not external, though temptation can come from outside!
 - a) Sin nature enslaves the will, it can’t resist as a habit of life!
 - b) Sin nature produces sins, not faith!
 - c) Sin nature kills innocence moral and ethical, destroying lives!
 - d) Sin nature kills ideals and crushes hope!

- C. The apostle Paul declared the natural man is fallen and depraved in his nature. vs. 3c
 * “and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”
1. Paul stated that the Jews were born sinners.
 - a. The phrase children of wrath indicates the Jews having a sin nature.
 * Born of two sinful parents!
 - b. The phrase sons of disobedience indicates the same thing for the Gentiles.
 * Born of two sinful parents!
 2. Paul stated the wrath of God vindicates His holiness.
 - a. God being holy, He must judge sin.
 - b. God’s holiness demands His wrath and His wrath vindicates His holiness!
 - c. The word wrath “orge” indicates God’s constant hostility towards evil and refusal to compromise with sin, it expresses the just punishment to sinner by a holy God!
 3. Paul confirmed the Jews were as depraved as the Gentiles, deserving the wrath of God, “just as the others”.
 - a. The others are the Gentiles.
 - b. Both are depraved sinners, slaves to sin nature that commits sins and trespasses, until born again!

Illustration

Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to

fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Jude 7

* AB 2223 the right of a mother to kill her baby for any reason up to 28 days after the birth of the child passed committee in California yesterday 4/19/22 and is on the state floor, if it passes it goes to governor Newsome to sign.

Application

1. The Bible provides a clear picture of the depravity of man, but man rejects it too often.
 - a. “There is none good, no not one.” Rom. 3:10
 - b. “The entire world is guilty before God.” Rom. 3:19
 - c. “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Rom. 3:23
 - d. “Our righteousness is as filthy rags.” Is. 64:6
2. The Bible provides the only way to escape the judgment of God is to repent.
 - a. “For God so loved the world....” Jn. 3:16
 - b. “He who has the son has life. . . has not the son the wrath of God abides in him.” Jn. 3:36
3. The Bible teaches after repentance, then we are able to walk with God and please Him.
 - a. We have to walk in the Spirit so that we don't walk in the flesh as believers. Gal. 5:16
 - b. We must not make provisions for our flesh to fulfill the lust or craving. Rom. 13:14

- c. We as believers justified have passed from the wrath of God to salvation by God. Rom. 5:1-2,
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This is the depraved nature of man until living for Christ!

Conclusion

This is man's life without Christ, characterized by these three truths:

- I.** The dreadful state of man before coming to Christ!
- II.** The daily walk of man before knowing Christ!
- III.** This is the depraved nature of man until living for Christ!