



## The Son Became A Curse

### The State of Man

Ephesians 2:1-3,

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 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— 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.”

Galatians 3:10 Paul wrote, “For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.””

### What it means to be cursed

The opposite of the blessings in Matthew 5:3-12 might read:

Cursed are the rich in spirit, for they are refused the kingdom of heaven  
Cursed are those who rejoice, for they will find no comfort from God  
Cursed are the proud, for their inheritance is God’s wrath  
Cursed are those who hunger and thirst for unrighteousness, for they will be unsatisfied  
Cursed are the cruel, for they shall be condemned without mercy  
Cursed are the impure in heart, for they shall not see God  
Cursed are the divisive and peace-haters, for they shall remain sons of their father the Devil  
Cursed are those who persecute the righteous, for yours is the kingdom of Babylon which is doomed to perish  
Cursed are you when the world loves you and embraces you as their own, for you have received your reward.

### What it means to be blessed

Positively, Matthew 5:3-12 says,

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.  
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.  
“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.  
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.  
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.



“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Numbers 6:24-26: “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

Psalms 32:1-2 “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.”

### The Son became a curse

Galatians 3:13-14,

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Paul Washer adds,

“At Calvary, the Messiah was “singled out” for adversity, and “the curses written” in the book of the law fell upon Him. Though Christ had every right to the blessings of Gerizim (the mountain of blessing), it was from mount Ebal (the mountain of curses) that His own Father thundered against Him as He hung from Calvary’s tree. He was cursed as a man who makes an idol and sets it up in secret. He was cursed as one who dishonors his father or mother, who moves his neighbor’s boundary mark, or who misleads a blind person on the road. He was cursed as one who distorts the justice due an alien, orphan, or widow. He was cursed as one who does not confirm the words of the law by doing them. Proverbs 26:2 declares, “A curse that is causeless does not alight.” However, the curse did alight upon sinless Christ, because He bore the sins of His people before the judgment bar of God.”<sup>1</sup>

## The Son suffered the wrath of God

### What it means to suffer under God’s wrath.

To be forsaken and estranged from God completely.

Habakkuk 1:13 says that God is “of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong,”

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Washer, *Discovering the Glorious Gospel*, page 48



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David wrote in Psalm 7:11-13, “God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day. If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword; he has bent and readied his bow; he has prepared for him his deadly weapons, making his arrows fiery shafts.”

Isaiah 53:4 says, “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.”

### No more wrath remains

The Hymn “Stricken Smitten and Afflicted” states,

You who think of sin but lightly, nor suppose the evil great  
Here may view its nature rightly; Here its guilt may estimate  
Mark the sacrifice appointed! See who bears the awful load  
’Tis the Word, the Lord’s anointed, Son of Man and Son of God

### Small Group Discussion Questions

1. What are the general effects of the curse in Genesis 3? What are the anti-blessings of Matthew 5:3-12?
2. How can our knowledge of the curse on creation shape our response to our hardships and the hardships of others this life? How can we make those around us aware of their cursed state before God?
3. What does it mean that Jesus became a curse for us? Why does that mean we can be blessed?
4. Why did God turn his face away from Jesus on the cross? Why do we often believe the lie that wrath remains for those saved by Jesus?
5. Why might God’s wrath for sin be difficult to talk about to others? How can we grow in warning others to flee to Christ?