

“We were DEAD!” Ephesians 2:1-3

**And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
(Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJ)**

In chapter 2 of Ephesians Paul writes to impress upon the hearts of the Ephesians (and us) the GREATNESS of the GRACE of God which saved and saves us! Here the greatness of that grace is seen in the DEPTHS to which God reached to bring us up!

I. We were DEAD!

1. We were DEAD Biblically –

It is important to understand that most people are WRONG about DEATH! The popular view is that death is the natural end of life. Death's horror is hidden by steel coffins and manicured cemeteries. Death is wrongly thought to lead to peace and an end of suffering FOR EVERYONE! YET this is not what the Bible teaches about death!

NKJ Genesis 2:17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

NKJ Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 9:27 ²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

2. We were completely DEAD –

Some think this spiritual death is not REALLY DEAD-DEAD but just “Mostly Dead” – meaning slightly alive, not totally depraved but rather “mostly depraved.” However, Dead according to the Scripture means unable to help yourself, unable to SAVE yourself, unable to cooperate in the work of salvation –

NKJ Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

NKJ Jeremiah 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

The problem is that even though we have the power to choose, we are dead to the things of God, and as a result have no desire for the things of God. Rather, we follow a different course. We follow it willfully; we follow it freely, in the sense of doing what we want to do. But with respect to spiritual things, we are dead. RC Sproul (Cover of bulletin)

If you put a bowl of meat and a bowl of veggies in front of a wolf, what will he choose?

He will choose the meat every time, because it is his nature. We choose SIN because of our sin nature.

NKJ Isaiah 1:5 Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, And the whole heart faints. ⁶ From the sole of the foot even to the head, There is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment.

Our sickness is terminal, fatal!

*II. We were Zombies, walking DEAD!
Consider how vividly Paul describes this desperate state!*

The ZOMBIE walk is described² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, (Ephesians 2:2 NKJ)

1. "According to the course of this world" :2

NKJ **Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.**

Abortion, euthanasia are solutions only for unbelievers whose way is the WAY OF DEATH!

NKJ **Matthew 7:13 " Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.¹⁴ "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.**

This Zombie WAY is the WAY of the majority, it leads to destruction, it is EASY and it is opposite of the way that leads to life!

2. "According to the prince of the power of the air" :2 -

NKJ **Ephesians 6:12 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.**

A. This "prince" is further described as - "**who now works in the sons of disobedience**":2 Children of Adam and Eve, who disobeyed God, eating the forbidden fruit according to the prompting of Satan, the Serpent!

Disobedience is the path to take
If Daddy Devil, proud you'd make
He's a liar, He's a fake
But he is DADDY to those
Who in Hell bake!

NKJ **John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.**

NKJ John 10:10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

B. Paul reminds us we all once walked this way

C. Driven by the flesh, it LUSTS

D. Fulfilling its desires

E. Not just the flesh but the mind -

NKJ Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Something we still deal with, battle with –

NKJ Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

III. We were children of wrath -

"Were by nature children of wrath, just as others" :3

NKJ Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

1. As sinners we were DUE GOD'S WRATH!

NKJ Matthew 25:41 "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:

NKJ Revelation 14:10 "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.¹¹ "And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

2. Yet, God by His grace rescued us from such a state and its consequences.

Christ took the consequence of sin, God's wrath upon Himself, for us -

... My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? (Psalm 22:1 NKJ)

Why did God forsake Christ, for us, to save us from our sins -

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJ)

3. *This is why we celebrate the Lord's Supper:*

A. *To remind us of and to honor Him for the Sacrifice He made for us!*

B. *To excite us about the LIFE we now have because He died that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJ)*

NKJ Galatians 5:24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

IV. YOU has He made ALIVE!

1. This life starts with conviction, feeling pain for sin-

NKJ Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.

A dead body feels no pain, poke it with a fork or knife, it doesn't scream or even say ouch!

A dead conscience can sin without pain!

2. This life continues with spiritual hunger –
NKJ **Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.**

WHEN YOU ARE ALIVE AND HEALTHY YOU HAVE A HEALTHY SPIRITUAL APPETITE –

Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him! (Psalm 34:8 NKJ)

But He answered and said, "It is written, `Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4 NKJ)

"Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ "For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. (John 6:54-56 NKJ)

3. It is a life that bursts into PURPOSE & PRAISE –
NKJ **Psalm 40:2 He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. ³ He has put a new song in my mouth -- Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD.**

Arnold Brevick