

***“The Flesh”***  
***Ephesians 2:1-3***

**Introduction:**

1. Let’s Open Back Up Our Bibles Tonight:
  - To Ephesians 2:
    - Where - Earlier This Year:
      - We Saw The Three Spiritual Enemies:
        - That We All Face:
          - Not Only As Christians:
            - But As Human Beings!
  - Those Enemies Are:
    - The World, The Flesh, And The Devil!
      - Even As The Apostle Paul Tells Us There:
        - “And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins; / Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: / Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others!”
2. So - Again:
  - Our Three Main Enemies Are:
    - The World - And:
      - “The Course Of This World!”
    - The Devil - Who Is:
      - “The Prince Of The Power Of The Air!”
    - And - The Flesh - Even:
      - The “Lusts Of Our Flesh!”
        - In Which We Seek To Fulfill:
          - “The Desires Of The Flesh And Of The Mind!”
  - It Is These Three Enemies:
    - That Caused The Old English Puritans:
      - To Write This Prayer In Their 1549 Book Of Common Prayer:
        - “From All Deceits Of The World, The Flesh, And The Devil, Good Lord, Deliver Us!”
    - And - This Is Still:
      - A Good Prayer For Us All:
        - To Consider In These Times:
          - In Which We Live!
3. Now - For The Last Several Weeks:
  - We’ve Been Learning About:
    - The Enemy Of This World:
      - As Well As What It Takes:
        - For Us As Believers In & Followers Of Christ:
          - To Resist The World & Its Worldliness!
  - And - Since The World:
    - Can Be Such A Subtle But Dangerous Enemy:
      - It Will Require Earnest Effort:
        - To Fight Against It!
          - Especially In The Culture Of The Day!
4. And So - To Resist Worldliness:
  - We Considered Five Things:
    - That We Need To Remember:
      - In Order To Experience Progress:
        - In Our Victory:
          - Over The World!
  - The First Thing We Need To Remember:
    - Is That We Have Been:
      - Sent Into This World:
        - By The Lord Jesus!

- And - We Saw This In:
  - Jesus' Prayer To His Father:
    - In John 17:18 - "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world!"
- The Second Thing We Need To Remember:
  - Is That We Need To Pursue Biblical:
    - Separation From This World!
  - And - The Best Way To Do This:
    - Is By Keeping The Cross Of Christ:
      - Before Us - As Our Number One:
        - Glory And Pride!
  - And The Apostle Paul:
    - Was A Good Example Of This:
      - When He Said - In Galatians 6:14 - "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world!"
- The Third Thing We Need To Remember:
  - Is That We Are:
    - Strangers & Pilgrims:
      - In This World!
    - Or - As Abraham Described Himself:
      - Back In Genesis:
        - As Strangers & Sojourners:
          - In This World!
  - The Fourth Thing We Need To Remember:
    - Is That We Are Meant To Be:
      - "Spectacles Unto The World!"
        - Which Is How The Apostle Paul Described Himself & The Other Apostles:
          - In 1 Corinthians 4:9!
      - Where He Said:
        - "We Are Made A Spectacle Unto The World, And To Angels, And To Men!"
          - Which Means That We Have Been Left In This World To Be:
            - A Different Kind Of "Theater!"
        - And - We Can Do So:
          - By Showing To The World:
            - Both The Love Of Christ & The Labor Of Christ!
      - And - The Fifth Thing We Need To Remember:
        - Is That We Are To Live As:
          - Saints In This World!
        - And - In Titus 2:11:
          - We Learned That The Gospel:
            - Teaches Us That:
              - "Denying Ungodliness And Worldly Lusts, We Should Live Soberly, Righteously, And Godly, In This Present World / Age!"
          - So - To Live As A Saint:
            - Means That:
              - You Are To Be Attentive To God:
                - Soberly!
              - You Are To Abide By His Standards:
                - Righteously! And:
              - You Are To Be Absorbed By God Himself:
                - Godly!
          - So - Even As We Pray:
            - For The Lord To Deliver Us:
              - From This "Present Evil World!"
                - We Need To Pursue After:
                  - Holiness In These Ways!

5. Starting Tonight:

- We Will Be Considering:
  - The Second Spiritual Enemy:
    - Which Is - In Biblical Terms:
      - “The Flesh!”
- Even Our Own, Fallen Flesh:
  - Which Has An Intimate Connection:
    - To This Old, Fallen World!
  - Which Is What We Find In:
    - 1 John 2:16 - Which Tells Us That:
      - “All that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world!”
- So - Even Though:
  - We Have Three Distinct Spiritual Enemies:
    - They Are All Intimately Connected With Each Other - In Order To:
      - Keep Us From - First:
        - Faith In The Lord!
      - And Then - Second - From:
        - Following After The Lord!

6. Now - To Learn How:
- To Have Victory Over This Enemy:
    - We Need To Learn More:
      - About The Enemy Itself!
    - And So - First:
      - We Need To Understand:

**1. *The Design For Our Flesh!***

- That Is - God’s Original Design:
  - For Our Flesh - And Our:
    - Creation As God’s Representatives:
      - In This World!
  - In Genesis 1:26-31:
    - We Have The First Account:
      - Our Creation By God - And Even:
        - The Creation Of Our Flesh!
    - “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. / So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. / And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. / And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which [is] upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which [is] the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. / And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein [there is] life, [I have given] every green herb for meat: and it was so. / And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, [it was] very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day!”
  - So - When God Created Us:
    - He Made Us - 1:26 - In His Image - And:
      - After His Likeness!
        - Of Course - This Involves Many Aspects & Attributes!
    - But - Since God Is A Spirit:
      - The Physical Aspect That God Gave Us:
        - In The Flesh:
          - He Designed To Reflect Some Of God’s Character:
            - In Physical Ways!
  - So - Since God Is An Omniscient God:
    - In That He Knows Everything:
      - He Gave Us Eyes To See & Ears To Hear:

- So That We Might Grow In Our Own Knowledge:
  - Of Both The Creation Around Us & The Creator Above Us!
- And So - With These Senses:
  - We Can Understand Something:
    - Of God's Infinite Genius & Knowledge!
- And - Since God Is An Excellent God:
  - In That He Is Full Of Glory!
    - He Gave Us Other Senses:
      - To Learn What It Means To Enjoy:
        - Both The Gifts Of Creation & The Giver Of Those Gifts!
  - And So - With Our Sense Of Taste:
    - We Can Understand Something More
      - Of God's Excellence!
    - Even As David Tells Us:
      - In Psalm 34:8 - "O taste and see that the LORD [is] good: blessed [is] the man [that] trusteth in him!"
- And So - This Was God's Original Design:
  - For Our Flesh & Our Physical Nature!
    - To Be Able To Use Our Senses:
      - To Get To Know More About:
        - God And His Glory & Goodness:
          - And To Promote Them As Well!
  - And Yet - We All Know What Happened:
    - To This Original Design:
      - For Our Flesh!
    - Through Adam & His Sin:
      - We All Fell:
        - And That Led To:

## 2. ***The Demise Of Our Flesh!***

- The Demise & The Death:
  - Of God's Original Design:
    - For Our Physical Nature!
  - Back In Genesis 2:16-17:
    - God Told Adam What Would Happen:
      - If He Disobeyed His Command:
        - To "Not Eat Of" – "The Tree Of The Knowledge Of Good And Evil!"
        - Because - "In The Day That Thou Eatest Thereof Thou Shalt Surely Die!"
  - And - What Happened?
    - True To God's Word:
      - In The Day That:
        - Adam & Eve Ate The Forbidden Fruit - They Experienced:
          - Spiritual Death & Separation From God!
  - And - That Death:
    - Infected & Spread:
      - To Every Part Of:
        - Their Humanity!
- So That - From The Time Of The Fall:
  - Even Until Now:
    - No Longer Does "Flesh" In The Bible:
      - Describe Our Physical Nature:
        - As God's Creation!
      - But Our Fallen Nature:
        - As Rebels Against:
          - God And His Will!
  - This Is Why In Romans 8:8:
    - Paul Can Say That:
      - "They That Are In The Flesh Cannot Place God!"

- So - It Is The Fall:
  - That Contaminated Our Flesh:
    - To The Point Of:
      - Its Spiritual Demise And Even Death!
- And This Demise Means:
  - Goes Very Deep - So That:
    - The Bible Describes:

### 3. ***The Depth Of Our Flesh:***

- Our Flesh Is Not:
  - Only Skin Deep!
    - Because - When The Bible Talks About:
      - The Flesh - It Is Talking About:
        - Our Entire Human Nature:
          - It Its Fallen Condition!
- In Fact - When God Describes:
  - Our Sinful Condition:
    - In Terms Of Sickness:
      - It Goes Way Deeper Than:
        - Our Bodies!
  - As In Isaiah 1:4-6:
    - Where God Exclaims:
      - "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. / Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. / From the sole of the foot even unto the head [there is] no soundness in it; [but] wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment!"
  - Now - Even Though This May Never Describe:
    - What You Look Like:
      - On The Outside!
    - This *Is* What You And I Look Like:
      - On The Inside!
        - In The Flesh Of Our Souls:
          - Apart From God!
    - And - This Means Further:
      - That For Every Person Who Is Born:
        - Into This World:
          - They Are Infected With:

### 3. ***The Depravity Of Our Flesh:***

- And - This Depravity:
  - Is Total & Complete!
    - Now - Depravity:
      - Does Not Mean That:
        - We Are As Bad:
          - As We Can Possibly Be!
    - Rather - It Means That:
      - There Is No Part Of Our Human Nature / Our Fallen Flesh:
        - That Has Not Been Corrupted By Sin!
    - As William Shed Once Put It:
      - This Depravity Means - "The Entire Absence Of Holiness, Not The Highest Intensity Of Sin!"
        - And So - God Tells Us:
          - Through His Word That:
  - Sin Completely Infects:
    - Our Minds!
      - So That - Without Any Intervention By God:

- We Will Think The Same Way:
  - As Those Who Lived Before The Great Flood - In Genesis 6:5:
- Where We Are Told That:
  - “GOD saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every imagination of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually!”
- This Is What:
  - Our Flesh Is Now Like:
    - Ever Since The Fall! Also:
- Sin Completely Infects:
  - Our Hearts!
    - So That - Again - Without Any Intervention By God:
      - Everything That Comes Out Us:
        - Will Flow From The Corruption:
          - That Is Within Us!
            - From Our Hearts!
    - And - What Are Our Hearts Like?
      - Jeremiah 17:9-10 - “The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it? / I the LORD search the heart, [I] try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, [and] according to the fruit of his doings!”
  - This Too Is What:
    - Our Flesh Is Like:
      - From The Inside Out! Also:
- Sin Completely Infects:
  - Our Wills!
    - So That - Apart From God’s Gracious Intervention:
      - We Will Continually Chose:
        - Our Own Way - Instead Of:
          - God’s Way!
    - Even As Paul Tells Us:
      - In Romans 3:10-12 - “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: / There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. / They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one!”
  - Once Again - This Is What:
    - Our Flesh Is Like!
      - But Even More:
- Sin Completely Infects:
  - Our God-Given:
    - Conscience!
  - That Point Of Connection:
    - That Exists Between:
      - Us & God - Is So Tender And Tenuous:
        - That It Is Far To Easy To Have:
          - Our Consciences “Seared With A Hot Iron!” (1 Timothy 4:2)
  - So That - Over Time:
    - Our Hearts Become Even:
      - More Hardened To The Things Of God:
        - Than They Originally Were!
    - Even As The “Rain” Of God’s Blessings:
      - Shower Down Upon Us!
- And This Is The Depravity Of Our Flesh:
  - Apart From The Intervention Of God:
    - And His Grace!

**Conclusion:**

1. And - This Is One Of The Enemies:
  - That We Still Have To Fight Against:
    - Even When We Are Saved From:

- Its Absolute Power Over Our Lives!
  - Because - It Is The Flesh:
    - And - Its Deception:
      - That Created Even In The Apostle Paul:
        - Such A Tension:
          - In His Walk With God!
2. A Tension That We Find:
  - In Romans 7:18-24:
    - “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but [how] to perform that which is good I find not. / For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. / Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. / I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. / For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: / But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. / O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”
  - Now - Without God In The Picture:
    - This Is Very Bleak!
      - Because - It Seems Like:
        - The Flesh Is Still Too Much:
          - For Paul! And Is:
            - Still Too Much For Us!
3. But - With God In The Picture!
  - We Have The Answer:
    - To Having More & More Progress:
      - In Our Victory Over:
        - The Flesh!
  - And - That Is What Paul Tells Us:
    - In 7:25 - In Answer To His Question:
      - “Who Shall Deliver Me From The Body Of This Death?” - Even:
        - His Flesh?
          - 7:25 - “I Thank God Through Jesus Christ Our Lord!”
4. So - Even When:
  - You Start To Feel Defeated By:
    - Your Flesh!
  - Remember That:
    - It Is Jesus Himself:
      - Who Can & Will Deliver You:
        - From Its Strength:
          - Even As You Continue To Struggle Against It!

**Grace Baptist Church**  
**Stephen Elmer, Pastor**  
**4245 North 200 West**  
**Greenfield, Indiana 46140**  
**317-326-2362**  
[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)  
[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)  
[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)