

Series: The Wealth and Walk of a Christian

"But God" # 5

Ephesians 2:1-3

8-6-17 Sun AM

1. The book of Ephesians tells of the spiritual riches of the Christian because we are in Christ Jesus the Lord. Chapters 1-3 tell of our spiritual wealth in Christ Jesus, and chapters 4-6 tell of our spiritual walk in Christ Jesus.

2. We have before us probably one of the greatest passages of God's salvation from God's perspective and power. These verses present man's lost condition and his salvation- past, present, and future.

TT: I want to share what we were [vs.1-3], what God did [vs.4-7], and why God did it [vs. 8-10].

I. What we were (2:1-3).

1. We Were Dead (2:1).

(1). *We were dead in sins* (v.1).

Man is born spiritually dead. He is not dead because he sins; he is spiritually dead because by nature he is sinful.

Gen. 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: (17) But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Rom. 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Mankind fell with the first man in sin.

Rom. 6:23 "The wages of sin is death."

(2). *We were dead to God and the things of God* (v.1).

Dead to spiritual life, truth, righteousness, inner peace and happiness. Man is not right with God.

Doctrine of total depravity- Not only are we dead, we can't initiate life. We have no desire or capacity to respond or come to God.

John 16:8-9 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: (9) Of sin, because they believe not on me;

We were dead by nature [1 Cor. 2:14]

We were dead for a Satanic reason [2 Cor. 4:3-4]

We were dead by Divine judgment [Matt. 11:25]

(3). *We were separated from God.*

Rom. 3:23 no matter how much we work, try to be good, we will always fall short of God's standard of holiness.

2. We Were Deluded (2:2a).

(1). *A lost man walks in the domain of the world* (2:2).

Here the world refers to the world system of values and way of doing things apart from God. The world system follows Satan.

Two cultures exist- world view and the biblical [Christian] view. Before saved we walked in the spirit of the age or "according to the course of the world."

"course" means age or a certain spirit or attitude. We live in a world that always displays a spirit of hostility toward God.

1 John 2:15, Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For 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. (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

(2). *A lost man serves under the direction of Satan* (2:2b).

Satan is the ruler of this system. Not all unbelievers are indwelt with a demon, but they are under Satan's influence.

They hold the same interests, philosophies, values, beliefs, and put these before God. They think like the world.

3. We Were Disobedient (2:2b).

Man is born selfish and driven to fulfill the natural desires of the flesh. We were sons of the disobedient one- Satan.

As such, man makes deliberate choices that defy God's will and way. He walks contrary to the teachings of God.

Let say something about why children get sick and die. They have this fallen nature from Adam and suffer the consequences of Adam's fall.

4. We Were Defiled (2:3a).

Before saved we were controlled by natural desire "lusts of the flesh."

The fallen human nature gravitates to low things- lusts of the body and lusts of the mind.

5. We Were Doomed (2:3b).

Unless reconciled to God thru Christ, every person by nature is the object of God's wrath. We are objects of God's judgment.

Man is condemned to hell by his nature not his sins. He is a dead sinner. We are not liars because we lie, but we lie because we are sinners.

Application:

In our past condition we are without Christ, without God, and without hope. We were sinners by nature, by choice, and by practice.

We were dead, deluded, disobedient, defiled, and doomed!

We were spiritually dead on our way to hell. Thanks for "But God" [v.4]. God did not leave us there!