

Series: The Wealth of Christ and the Walk of the Christian

BUT GOD

EPHESIANS 2:1-4

Text: Ephesians 2:4

Introduction:

We have in this passage two of the most powerful words in the entire Bible.

In these verses we are reminded of the wealth of Christ and what He has provided all those who have repented by faith trusted Him as their personal Saviour.

Note:

1. THE BAD NEWS (VS. 1-3)

Ephesians 2:1-3

¹ And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ² 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: ³ 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.

Notice the condition being described:

- We Were Dead (vs. 1)

Ephesians 2:1

¹ *And you hath he quickened, **who were dead** in trespasses and sins;*

Dead men are not aware of their deadness

It amazes me the advancements that have been made in modern medicine.

Doctors can remodel disfigured faces, transplant kidneys, and other organs, implant lenses, bypass arteries as long as the patient is alive. Once the person is dead doctors can do nothing more than pull a sheet over the body and transfer the corpse to the morgue.

However God begins His work with people who are dead.

Notice not only were we dead also:

- We Were Deluded (vs. 2)

Ephesians 2:2

² ***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:

Before accepting Christ our utter deadness to spiritual things was evident in our behavior.

We walked according to the course of this world.

What is the course of this world?

Note what this course consists of:

1 John 2:15-17

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.

Remember:

1. The World Fascinates Then Assassinates.
2. The World Thrills Then Kills.
3. The World Anticipates Then Captivates.
4. The World Originates Then Dissipates.

5. The World Calls Then Stalls.

6. The World Delights Then Blights.

7. The World Looms Then Dooms.

8. The World Pays Then Enslaves.

And of course the reference to the prince of the power of the air is Satan himself.

Before salvation we were completely deceived by Satan. We walked according to the course of this world.

Notice not only were we dead and deluded but also:

- We Were Disobedient (vs. 2)

Ephesians 2:2

*² 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**:*

One of the first behaviors a child displays as soon as it is able to express its developing personality is disobedience.

No one has to teach a child to be disobedient. Rather a child has to be taught to obey, and the lesson has to be reinforced often.

Disobedience comes naturally.

Satan has an enormous advantage – our fallen natures are allied to his.

That nature is so strong even after our salvation we often struggle to do right.

Notice not only were we dead, deluded and disobedient but also:

- We Were Defiled (vs. 3)

Ephesians 2:3

³ ***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.***

Before salvation we were controlled by natural desires.

We were so controlled by depravity that we gravitated to low things.

Man may seek to disguise this depravity by culture and re-classification, but underneath these lusts smolder

and build up like a volcano that from time to time erupts to his sorrow and shame.

Notice not only were we dead, deluded, disobedient and defiled but also:

- We Were Doomed (vs. 3)

Ephesians 2:3

³ *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.***

We were born of sinful parents into a sin-cursed world.

We were born destined and deserving of God's wrath.

As a stated a moment ago, in this passage are found two of the most powerful words in the Bible. Not only are these words powerful they are also pleasant, and peaceful.

Note:

2. BLESSED NEWS (VS. 4)

Ephesians 2:4

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

We were dead BUT GOD made us alive.

We were captive to the prince of the power of the air and enslaved to the course of this world BUT GOD us with Christ and made us sit with him in the heavenly places.

We were children of wrath and deserving of an eternity in the torments of Hell, BUT GOD instead pouring out wrath God will spend eternity showing us His immeasurable mercy, riches and kindness.

Close:

What wonderful words – “But God.”

Have you trusted Him?

If so when was the last time you thanked Him for what He has provided. If it wasn't for “But God” we would be without hope and men and women most miserable.