"Dead Men Walking"

Ephesians 2:1-3

OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION BEFORE SALVATION

1. We were spiritually dead. v.1

- Dead in trespasses and sins. I.e., spiritually dead—and walking around! (v.2)
- Spiritually dead—and living! (v.3)

2. We were living under the power of the world, the devil, and our flesh. v.2-3a

- "in which you once walked" Gk. *peripateo* = to walk around, to conduct one's life.
- **v.2a:** "following the course of this world"
  -'according to' – in alignment with
- **v.2b:** "following the prince of the power of the air" I.e., this refers to evil; Satan, the devil
  -lit. 'the ruler of the kingdom of the air, [who is also the ruler of] the spirit who is now at work in…'
  -1 John 5:19: We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.
- **v.3a:** "in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind"
  -'living in' them, 'carrying out' (working, walking out; Gk. *poieo* root word for Eng. 'poem')

OUR RELATIONAL STATUS AND IDENTITY BEFORE SALVATION

1. We were "sons of disobedience." v.2b

- We were relationally opposed to God and His Law.
- Our natural disposition was not toward obedience, but disobedience. Disobedience was our 'father.'

2. We were "children of wrath." v.3b

- OT: more than 20 words used for 'wrath'; approx. 600 passages deal with wrath & judgment
- NT: Gk. *thumos* ('to rush along fiercely' or 'to be in the heat of violence') or *orge* ('frenzy of violence')
- John 3:36: Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- John 5:24: Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

3. This description applies to everyone.

- "…among whom we all once lived…"
- "…like the rest of mankind."

4. This description is opposed to secular humanism.

- Secular humanism: 'You're basically good—it is just the circumstances that need to change!'
  -this is the predominant view taught in schools and universities
  -Some examples: 'the problem is ignorance—education will solve it'
  'the problem is economic—reallocation of wealth will solve it'

5. This description is different than what is taught in many churches today.

- 'Everything is okay. God loves you and you have nothing to worry about.'
- 'Our message is *positive*—you just need some encouragement; don't get bogged down in negatives.'
- Moralism: 'You're mostly good—you just need some moral influence and refinement!'

(Next week's text: Matthew 5:17, 38-42)