

**“Dead Men Made Alive”**

Ephesians 2:1-5

**OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION BEFORE/APART FROM SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. v.1-3**

1. **We were spiritually dead. v.1**
2. **We were ‘living’ in alignment with the world. v. 2a**
3. **We were ‘living’ in alignment with spiritual darkness. v.2b**
4. **We were ‘living’ in alignment with the lusts of our body and mind. v.3a**
5. **By our nature (not just our actions) we were children of wrath. v.3b**

→ This describes *everyone* before our salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

**THE WRATH OF GOD REMAINS UPON EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT HAVE SALVATION IN CHRIST.**

- 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.
  - Ephesians 5:6: Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.
1. **Pleading ignorance will not save you. Romans 1:18-20; Acts 17:21; 2 Timothy 3:7**
    - ‘I truly just didn’t have enough evidence to convince me that Jesus was the Savior.’ ‘I remain unconvinced.’
    - 2 Timothy 3:7: “always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth”

→ Have you ever considered the arrogance of your ignorance?
  2. **Morality will not save you. Matthew 23:1f; 2 Timothy 3:5**
    - ‘I’m a very moral person—and I’m religious too!’
    - Many religious people in Jesus’ day were very moral people. Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes, priests. Mt 23:1f
    - ‘having a form of godliness but denying its power’ 2 Timothy 3:5
  3. **Sorrow will not save you. 2 Corinthians 7:10-11**
    - ‘I truly feel bad about my sin.’
  4. **Good works—even in ‘ministry’—will not save you. Matthew 7:22-23; Romans 3:10**
    - ‘I’m very involved in church activities and charitable causes.’

**BUT GOD... v.4-5**

1. **There is a way of escape! “But God...” v.4a**
2. **...being rich in mercy... v.4b**
  - Mercy = not getting the judgment (wrath) we deserve
3. **...because of the great love with which he loved us... v.4c**
4. **...even when we were dead in our trespasses... v.5a**
5. **...made us alive together with Christ... v.5b** → Dead men made alive!
6. **...by grace you have been saved... v.5c**
  - Grace = getting something good we do not deserve

→ What has man contributed to his salvation so far? NOTHING

→ You cannot make yourself born again.

“No more soul-destroying doctrine could well be devised than the doctrine that sinners can regenerate themselves, and repent and believe just when they please.”

-Charles Hodge

“What kind of God would need to save us from himself? And how could that possibly be good news?”

-Rob Bell, *Love Wins*

(Next week’s text: Ephesians 2:1-7)