

THE WALKING DEAD

Friday, April 12

Reading: Ephesians 2:1-7

Ephesians 2:4 *But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

A person's position before salvation is bleak. Paul compares it to being DEAD! A dead person cannot respond to outward stimuli. So those who are spiritually dead cannot respond to God. There is no spiritual life in them. There is nothing they can do to please God. They are dead in their sins (see Romans 6:23).

Not only are unbelievers dead, they are also CONTROLLED! They are controlled by the ways of the world with its values and attitudes that stand opposed to God. They are also controlled by Satan who is behind the sin-corrupted world system. And they are controlled by their own sinful flesh. They live to fulfill the sinful desires and wicked thoughts of their sinful nature. They live for what feels good and not what pleases God.

Because of this, they are DOOMED! In the Greek, Paul calls them "children of disobedience" and "children of wrath." They deserve punishment. In verse 12, Paul says they are "without hope" and "without God." This is our position without Christ!

Verse 4 begins with two of the greatest words in Scripture, "But God..." Despite our dead, condemned condition, God stepped in. Because of His great love, rich mercy, and grace God saved us, made us alive spiritually in Christ, and has given us a position at His right hand where Christ now sits.

LESSON ONE: "Mercy." Mercy can be defined as God NOT giving us what we deserve. We deserve God's wrath but instead He gives us His unlimited mercy.

LESSON TWO: "Love." The love of God does not mean that He will not punish sin. God is holy and must judge sin. But the surprise of salvation is that the God who is so deeply offended by our sin is the One who provided the means of forgiveness on the cross of Calvary.

LESSON THREE: "Grace." Grace is God giving us what we DON'T deserve. We don't deserve salvation and the promise of eternity in heaven. But God gives all things to us out of His love. We are trophies of grace and throughout eternity we will praise Him for the wonder of His unbelievable mercy, love, and grace toward us.

How can you reach out to those dead in sin with the love, mercy, and grace of God today?