

EPHESIANS 2:1-3

LIFE BEFORE CHRIST

We are in the center of the greatest profundities of Christian doctrine. We are reminded of them in order to enable us to see the greatness not only of the power of God, but of His love and of His grace and of His mercy.

What we need to do is measure this great power that God has toward us who believe. First we need to realize all the depth out of which God had to raise us and then consider the height to which He has taken us. This is where we begin to understand the greatness of His power.

The doctrine of original sin is not popular these days. Man in sin has never liked it. What man likes to believe is that he is born neutral. He is gradually influenced by bad habits and bad things. If only man had the right conditions, right environment, and adequate knowledge and he would be ok. But if you give man the most ideal circumstances he will still fail. Remember Paradise and Adam and Eve and the Fall.

MAN'S STATE IN SIN

A. DEAD

B. IGNORANT OF SPIRITUAL THINGS

Rom 8:5-7

You cannot understand the incarnation unless you are clear about sin. Also, the cross, resurrection, etc.....

Not interested

Rom 8:5-6

Hates spiritual things

Rom 8:7 He cannot obey God

C. UNLIKE GOD

D. NOT BLESSED BY GOD

Life is miserable. If you don't agree, you are not a Christian.

That is why there has to be change in the world. The world is profoundly miserable

TRESPASSES AND SINS

You can sum up the life of the whole world today in those two words

A. TRESPASSES----PARAPTOMA

Falling away from the upright

fall, stumble, deviate, It is like something falling to the ground.

It has gone out of its true position

Go the wrong direction

B. SINS-----HAMARTIA

Outward manifestations of the inward polluted principle

Short of the glory of God—Rom 1:21, Acts 12:23

miss the mark, short of the glory of God

A comprehensive definition is a falling away from the true and right and the righteous and all the outward manifestations of this evil principle within us.

What leads one to trespasses and sins? It is the polluted nature.

C. GOOD WORKS OF THE UNBELIEVER

Luke 6:33, 11:13, Acts 28:2,6

GOVERNED BY THE WORLD

THE COURSE OF THIS WORLD

Age---Gal 1:4, 1 Jn 2:15-17

The kind of life that is lived under control of the
present world—Gal 1:4, 1 Jn 2:15-17

World (Kosmos)

world's systems of values and way of
doing things

Spirit

___--principle

Evil principle that is in the world

___ Satan god of this world, prince of this world,
Chief of the devils Eph 6:12

EXPLANATION OF MAN'S CONDITION

A. CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE

You are of your father the devil, and the works of your
father you will do
Man denies this
Man asserts his own self-sufficiency
Cannot obey God

2 Cor 4:3-4, Rom 8:7

B. CHILDREN OF WRATH BY NATURE

Ps 51:5, 58:3, Rom 7:18

All

1 Tim 1:15

LUSTS OF THE FLESH

A man's life without the grace of God is polluted. It is a
life lived in the lusts of the flesh.

A. FLESH

1. The whole of mankind
2. Covering of our bones

3. Opposite of the Spirit---Gal 5:17

It is the entire man in sin apart from Christ. It includes the body, mind, and affections.. It is the whole of man in the state of sin. The whole man is involved, the totality of man's fall in sin.

4. Sensuous, animal part of man in sin

B. LUSTS

Strong desire

1. Good Luke 22:15

2. Bad

Desires of the *flesh*

A desire is a command that takes control. It urges us to action.

We think we must have it. We must have it. That is a desire.

Inordinate affections of the bodily nature

When we are hungry and desire to eat, nothing wrong, but to live to eat. To be a connoisseur

and it goes beyond the eating or drinking. One can be a glutton of sleep. Or pleasure, nothing wrong with it, but when it dominates then it's a desire of the flesh. Or the desire to attract or be attracted to. Its to have the whole mind centered on it. To live for it, talk about it, To have your whole mind centered on it.

These things are put there by God but they are meant to be kept in order. We are to be in control, but they drive us and urge us. The power of it all

Desires of the *mind*

_____ This true of the mind as well as the flesh. It is the whole process of thinking.,

tTo have your whole mind centered on it.

Lowest level—Jealousy, envy, malice, pride, hatred, wrath, bitterness

What are they? Manifestations of the desires of the mind

People who don't get drunk or commit adultery have been guilty of these.

Higher level-- Ambition

The lust for wealth, position, social status, importance in life, power, success A craving for something new as in the philosophies in Athens.

Argumentation over doctrine to show how clever I am.

Reading books after books just to gain knowledge for show, from one book to another without finishing books. No longer in control.

Living for hobbies, games, interests.

Highest level—Lust for knowledge

Lust for learning, literature, art music, drama, philosophy

Sin is as pervasive and deep and profound as all this.

When you understand the doctrine of sin you see the ultimate futility of trusting only political answers. The government now wants us to eat less, drink less smoke less, We must discipline ourselves. We don't listen so they put on a purchase tax. They don't

understand the word lust. Lust is a force, a power. The whole fallacy of mere political thinking is based upon a failure to realize the biblical doctrine of sin. It is not enough to tell men what is right and what is wrong. They cant help themselves because they are slaves of the lusts the passions and desires that control them.

There is only one thing that can deal with this situation. It is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe. It is the expulsive power of a new affection.

Sin—oh the depths , foulness, the ugliness, the power of it all ! There is only one place of safety, and that is looking unto Him, receiving of His fullness.