

Ephesians 2:1-4

Picture where God found us. We were in a death trap of an inferior lifestyle, constantly living below the blueprint measure of our lives. We were all part of a common pattern, swept along under a powerful invisible influence, a spirit-energy that adopted us as sons to its dictate through unbelief. Throughout that time everyone of us were warped and corrupted in our conduct snared in a jumble of forbidden lusts, driven by the desires of the senses, totally engaged in an expression of a life ruled by mind games; it was as if a twisted passion parented a universal breed of people. NONE OF THIS COULD DISTRACT FROM THE EXTRAVAGANT LOVE OF GOD; HE CONTINUED TO LOVE US WITH THE EXACT SAME INTENSITY ([Eph. 2:1-4](#)).

These verses are a picture of living in our old nature, which the Mirror calls an "inferior lifestyle, constantly living below the blueprint measure." This is important. God never intended for man to possess the nature of His arc enemy.

[Genesis 5:1-3](#) (NKJV)

¹ This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.

² He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.

³ And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot *a son* in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

Now it is important to understand that before Adam fell, we do NOT know how long he and Eve lived sin-free. We do know that they procreated enough to have a people for Cain to flee to after killing Abel, which is important because Cain and Abel are the first children born to Adam and Eve AFTER the fall.

[Genesis 4:12-17](#) (NKJV)

¹² When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."

¹³ And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment *is* greater than I can bear!

¹⁴ Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen *that* anyone who finds me will kill me."

¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.

¹⁷ And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son--Enoch.

What this means is that mankind lived in a sin-free state as a whole UNTIL Adam and Eve fell and then all of man fell and took on the nature of the serpent. The time between the fall and today is 5775 years. This might answer the question of why science has categorically proven earth has been here millions of years including dinosaurs. In fact, I have wondered if the dinosaurs had to be eliminated to a large degree after the fall due to their strength and size in which man could no longer dwell with in peace. THAT'S MY THOUGHT NOT SCRIPTURE.

And, so, we see in [Genesis 5:1](#) that God created man in His likeness but verse three tells us that after the fall and at the age of 130 years, Adam begot another son AFTER HIS OWN LIKENESS, HIS OWN IMAGE, and named him Seth. For the next 4,000 years, all men lived with the sin nature of the devil and reproduced after the image of fallen parents even though some followed God like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, David, etc. And so we see that Paul is describing here in Ephesians what it was like for us in this fallen state.

What is important to understand is that Paul is continuing his thought from chapter 1, which ended with the prayer that we would understand the magnitude of mighty work in us who believe, the same power that unleashed Christ when he raised him from the dead. That same power in all its magnitude that was used to raise Christ from the dead is now applied toward us! He raised us from the death of our trespasses and sins and made us alive in Him. And so let us examine the state God still loved us from.

1. **God found us in a death trap of an inferior lifestyle.** In the NKJV, Paul said we were dead in our sins. Sin is a word that means "without form." READ [GENESIS 1:1-2](#). The earth was "without form," which means "chaos, confusion, and disorder." It is "all things that are opposed to the organization, direction and order that God has demonstrated." And it was the Spirit of God that "moved" upon the face of the waters to bring the power of God into the creative decrees God unleashed. The death we were in was linked with trespasses and sins not physical death. It was a spiritual death in which we were separated from God and His life was not able to ENERGIZE & CONTROL THE REASON, WILL & EMOTIONS OF US as sinners. These 3 things were active in us BUT INSTEAD ENERGIZED BY A FALLEN NATURE.
2. **Constantly living below the blueprint measure of our lives.** Sin in verse 1 also was used by the Greeks to speak of FAILING OF ONE'S PURPOSE or below the blueprint measure God originally designed man to live in. And we were originally designed to live the GLORY OF GOD. READ [ROM. 3:28](#). We were created to glorify God and literally be clothed with the glory. And that call to return to the glory was in man even after the fall, which is why man has sought the glory of people's praise, adoration, and worship, why man has built cities and empires to his glory, and why mankind has always been at war over territories, etc. Another

attempt man made to cover the nakedness left from losing the glory of God at the fall was RELIGIOUS WORKS. EXPLAIN THE FIG LEAVES FOR COVERING.

3. **Part of a common pattern swept along UNDER a powerful invisible influence, a spirit energy that ADOPTED us as sons using unbelief.** I like how the NKJV phrases it, "...in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR, the SPIRIT who now works in the sons of disobedience." Note that Paul makes it very plain the PATTERN or IMAGE by which those who are still sinners are swept along under: THE GOD OF THIS WORLD, SATAN. Interestingly, the word "spirit" is not speaking of Satan as a spirit being due to the grammar of the Greek used. No, spirit refers to the PRINCIPLE OR POWER THAT COMES INTO MEN FROM SATAN, THAT SPIRIT THAT NOW who energizes and operates in unbelievers, whom Paul calls SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE, again implying the source, the father, of this fallen nature.

Course means "to conduct one's self, order one's behavior." Paul is locating this sphere, this course within the fallen world system the enemy has set up. The Wuest explains that "the unsaved order their behavior, regulate their lives within the sphere of trespasses and sins. ALL their thoughts, words, and deeds are ENSPHERED by sin. NOT ONE OF THEIR ACTS EVER GETS OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE OF SIN." I.e. the entire life of an unsaved person is nothing but sin because he is CONTROLLED by a world in which man is living "alienated and apart from God. Zodhiates states that the word is "the present order of things, as opposed to the kingdom of Christ." The floating mass of thoughts, opinions, hopes, speculations, impulses, aims and aspirations currently in the world are impossible to seize or define but have a very REAL AND EFFECTIVE POWER BEHIND THEM. And so God introduced the Word of God in the Person of Jesus Christ to gain legal access to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth.

Many picture the enemy in the "second heavens" as some call it, but the word "air" is the lower atmosphere in which we dwell, humans dwell. The enemy full of bitter hatred toward God and the human race dwells within our atmosphere as the head of all the fallen angels and demons in order to dictate his will through fallen mankind and, unfortunately, through some who say they are Christians. We also see that the enemy is able to dictate the behavior of mankind and even some Christians THROUGH UNBELIEF.

"...unbelief only produces a breed of people that DISTORT THE PATTERN OF THEIR DESIGN AS IMAGE BEARERS OF GOD: this certainly does not please God" ([Eph. 5:6](#)).

4. **Warped and corrupted in our conduct snared in a jumble of forbidden lusts.** Lusts are evil desires, which Peter said corrupt.
5. **Driven by the desires of the senses.** This means that we "HABITUALLY PERFORMED ACTS THAT SATISFIED THE DESIRE OF THE EVIL NATURE AND EVIL

THOUGHTS. This means that as children of God now with a new nature, our desires should be from the new nature and new mind of Christ we possess. Desires in the Greek mean "DESIRES THAT COME FROM THE EMOTIONS." This means that our life as unsaved was determined by emotions rather than reason. THIS REVEALS THAT THE CHRISTIAN THAT IS STILL CONTROLLED BY EMOTIONS IS CARNAL AND HAS NOT YET HAD THE REVELATION THAT HE OR SHE IS DEAD TO THE OLD NATURE. I.e. that believer, if truly saved, is still being swayed by an inferior lifestyle governed by lusts. THERE IS A MIXTURE AND GOD HATES MIXTURE. In the OT, He wouldn't even allow wool and cotton to be blended together.

6. **Totally engaged in an expression of a life ruled by mind games.** Mind game is "psychological manipulation or strategy to gain advantage or manipulate" (dictionary.com). The enemy uses "mind games" on sinners to manipulate them in believing lies and ordered lives based on those lies and sinners use "mind games" to manipulate others for their own desires.
7. **Parented by a TWISTED PASSION.** The KJV says we were by NATURE CHILDREN OF WRATH. This is before Christ. Children means "what is innate, implanted in one by nature." And because we were not sinners by what we DID but by our very NATURE, we were subject to the wrath of God. **BUT GOD SEEING THIS PROBLEM PROVIDED A SOLUTION: JESUS CHRIST.**

By going through all of these things, I want you to see how depraved, how sinful by nature, and how utterly incapable we are and were to save ourselves. Listen to verses 1-3 in the Wuest.

[Ephesians 2:1 \(WuestNT\)](#)

¹ And you being dead with reference to your trespasses and sins, He made alive; in the sphere of which trespasses and sins at one time you ordered your behavior as dominated by the spirit of the age in this world system, as dominated by the leader of the authority of the lower atmosphere, the source also of the spirit that is now operating in the sons of the disobedience among whom also we all ordered our behavior in the sphere of the cravings of our evil nature, continually practicing the desires of our evil nature and of our thoughts, and were continually children of wrath by nature, as also the rest.

Now let's reread verse 4 again in the Mirror Bible.

NONE of this could distract from the extravagant love of God; HE CONTINUED TO LOVE US WITH THE EXACT SAME INTENSITY.

Paul now presents the other side of our case. Listen to how the Wuest word studies describes it.

"...the divine grace which meets the sinful, condemned condition, and which stands over the dark background of our death by sin and our subjection by nature to the divine wrath. God who is wroth with sin, is a God of grace. His disposition towards those who are dead by trespasses and sins is one of mercy, and this is no stinted mercy, but a mercy that is *rich*, exhaustless."

Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament - Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament – Volume 1.

God is RICH in mercy. It says in the NKJV that "BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE" meaning that God displayed inexhaustive mercy toward us to SATISFY HIS GREAT LOVE. **Love, here, is agape, and is "a love the impels one to sacrifice one's self for the benefit of the object loved!** This is incredible! In spite of our sin, our fallen nature, our choices, God sacrificed Himself to satisfy His love toward us. **This reveals 2 things: 1) Your value is determined by the price paid and 2) His love has been forever proven so to doubt it is unbelief.**

ASSIGNMENT: 1) From a past tense perspective, write your testimony of all that God saved you out of. 2) Identity areas where you are still controlled by emotions instead of by your spirit man where Holy Spirit dwells. USE NEGATIVE EMOTIONS LIST.

DISCUSS IN NEXT CLASS.