

“But God...”

June 27th & 28th, 2015

Ephesians 2:1-5

The Reality of our Hopeless State: *Ephesians 2:1-3*

- ❖ The absolute hopeless spiritual condition of all of mankind is revealed to us in these verses. Though we have the power to choose, we are dead to the things of God, willfully following our own desires and passions, while being unaware that we are under the control of Satan. By nature we are under the wrath of God and destined for an eternity in hell apart from Him!

“We are born opposed to God and that is why, in our very nature, we are exposed to the wrath of God, and *justly* so.”¹

Jeremiah 13:23 “Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots? Then also you can do good who are accustomed to do evil.”

“But God...”! *Ephesians 2:4-5*

- ❖ Only Almighty God can give life to the dead and hope to the hopeless!
 - f Joseph was sold as a slave by his brothers ... **but God** was with him! *Genesis 37*
 - f Israel was in slavery in Egypt ... **but God** heard their cry! *Exodus 3-4*
 - f David was pursued by Saul ... **but God** protected him! *1 Samuel 23*
 - f Jehoshaphat was afraid of the overwhelming forces coming against him ... **but God** said, “... the battle is not yours but [Mine]”! *2 Chronicles 20*
 - f Hezekiah was about to be attacked by the Assyrians ... **but God** sent an angel and killed 185,000 soldiers and delivered him! *2 King 19*
 - f All of mankind is lost in darkness ... **but Jesus** came as the light of the world! *John 1*
Matthew 4:16 “the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them light has dawned.”

“But God, being rich in mercy...”

- ❖ God is not only merciful, but He is rich in mercy!
 - 📖 Psalm 103:1-12
 - 📖 John 8:1-11 ⇒ Jesus surprised the Scribes and Pharisees by His mercy toward the woman caught in the act of adultery and by law should have been stoned to death!

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us,...”

- ❖ God’s very character is love!
 - Deuteronomy 23:5 “... the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loved you.”*
 - John 3:16 “For God so loved the world...”*

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive with Christ...”

- ❖ We could no more make ourselves alive than Lazarus could raise himself from the dead!
- ❖ The new life we have in Christ is a total work of God. Paul makes it clear that we had nothing to do with it!
Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,”
2 Corinthians 5:17-19 “... All this is from God ...”!
f Everything that we now have in Christ (*Ephesians 1:1-23*) has been given to us only because of God’s great mercy and love for us!
Romans 11:33,35 “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!...For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.”
- ❖ Jesus came to give us life!
John 1:4 “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”
John 10:10 “... I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”
1 John 5:12 “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”
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.”

“But God...” – the two words that change any hopeless situation!

- ❖ I am lonely ... ***but God*** is with me!
- ❖ I am weak ... ***but God*** is my strength!
- ❖ I am hurting ... ***but God*** is my healer!
- ❖ I am scared ... ***but God*** is my refuge!
- ❖ I am frustrated with life ... ***but God*** is Sovereign!
- ❖ I am filled with guilt ... ***but God*** forgives me!
- ❖ I am bowed down with despair ... ***but God*** is the glory and lifter of my head! *Psalm 3:3*
- ❖ I am overwhelmed and stressed ... ***but God*** is my peace!
- ❖ I am sorrowful over my loss ... ***but God*** is my comfort!
- ❖ I am a sinner ... ***but God*** is my redeemer!

Psalm 107:1-2

*“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
for His steadfast love endures forever!
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so...!”*

Endnotes:

¹ Sproul, R. C. *The Purpose of God: Ephesians*. Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 1994. Print.

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