

Spiritually, We Are “DOA”

June 20th & 21st, 2015

Ephesians 2:1-3

In this passage, Paul brings into focus our natural spiritual condition before God which reveals in a greater way the magnificence of God’s love and grace toward us.

Every person born into this world is DOA (Dead On Arrival) spiritually!

“And you were dead in the trespasses...” Ephesians 2:1

❖ Being dead spiritually, we have no ability to know or respond to God!

f Understanding this truth that we are born dead toward God supports Ephesians 1:4-5, that God chose and predestined us to be His own children! God had to initiate the miracle of salvation and cause us to be born again (*1 Peter 1:3*) or we would have been lost forever!

f Man is not only out of harmony with God, we are alienated from Him!

Psalm 51:5 “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned – ”

“...dead in the trespasses and sin in which you once walked...” Ephesians 2:1-2

❖ Note the verbs or action words in Ephesians 2:1-3 revealing that we were actively involved in our rebellion against God and His Word: words like *walked, following, lived, carrying out*.

Walk: “...the whole round of the activities of the individual life, ...”¹

Following the course of this world: What is the course of this world? What does this world promote? A world without God will encourage behavior contrary to God’s Word – unbridled sexual expression both heterosexual or homosexual, termination of the unborn for convenience, denial of any accountability for our actions to God, hedonism, relativism, evolution, self-medication with illicit drugs and abuse of alcohol, denial of eternal judgment, etc.

📖 Romans 3:10-18

❖ Only after salvation can Christians follow a new course!

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

❖ All people by nature are subject to the rule of the evil one, Satan!

“...following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – ”
Ephesians 2:2

1 John 5:19 “We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

📖 *2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

John 8:43-44 ⇒ The Pharisees did not realize that they were under the power of Satan!

2 Corinthians 11:14 “And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”

“...among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh,...” Ephesians 2:3

- ❖ At this point in the passage, Paul changes from the second person “you” to the first person “we” which includes himself!

Live means to abide or to have a settled residence; to continue in.²

- ❖ In our natural state, we follow our passions and emotions in making choices. Whatever brings the most pleasure, entertainment, laughter, acceptance, accolades, compliments, or success is what we do!

f By nature we are very self-serving!

Isaiah 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

1 John 1:8 “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

“...carrying out the desires of the body and the mind,...” Ephesians 2:3

Galatians 5:17,24 “For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ... And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

1 John 2:16-17 “For all that is in the world – the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life – is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

2 Peter 3:3 “knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.”

“...and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” Ephesians 2:3

- ❖ Not only are we dead toward God, under the power of the Devil, and enslaved to our own sinful desires; but we are also, by nature, under the wrath of God and headed for an eternity in hell!

John 3:18,36 “Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the Name of the only Son of God. ... 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.”

Our hopeless condition can only be changed by the supernatural
working of a Sovereign and Merciful God!
Ephesians 2:4 “But God...”!

Endnotes:

¹ Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

² Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

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