

Continuing in the Word, "The Deadness of Mankind," Ephesians 2:1-3

Ephesians 2:1 gives this dreadful statement about people who are without Christ: they are "dead in trespasses and sins". The word for dead is the Greek word for a corpse, a body with no life in it whatsoever. Without Christ we are a spiritual corpse – there is no spiritual life in us whatsoever.

Later on in Ephesians, in chapter 4, there is a very descriptive account of a person's life before salvation through Jesus Christ. In verses 17-19 Paul writes, *"This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."*

What an indictment against fallen humanity. What a condemning description!

- Futile minds
- Darkened understanding
- Alienated from the life of God
- Ignorant
- Blind
- Past feeling
- Given over to lewdness
- Doing that which is unclean
- Motivated by greed

...Spiritually DEAD, and in no condition to change our hell-bent course.

We've all been there. From the day of conception we were depraved. The only thing that could change that condition was the wonderful grace of Jesus, grace that is greater than all our sin. Thankfully, God intervened!

In considering these verses and the spiritual truths they contain pastor and commentator Matthew Henry states, "We who were dead were quickened, we are saved from the death of sin and have a principle of spiritual life implanted in us. Grace in the soul is a new life in the soul. As death locks up the senses, seals up all the powers and faculties, so does a state of sin, as to anything that is good. Grace unlocks and opens all, and enlarges the soul...The great objects of faith are made known by divine revelation, and made credible by the testimony and evidence which God hath given us; and that we believe to salvation and obtain salvation through faith is entirely owing to divine assistance and grace; God has ordered all so that the whole shall appear to be of grace."

God makes alive! God raises up! God saves by grace through faith! With an understanding of total depravity we can see and comprehend the grace of God most deeply. May each of us know this grace, and then worship our Lord and Savior for so great a salvation!

Pastor Jim