

Never Forget Where You Came From
Ephesians 2:1-7 (read all)
Ephesians 2:1-3 (preaching)

[Eph 2:1-7 ESV] 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

I. Intro

A. Chapter 1 of Ephesians tells us

1. what God did,
2. who He is,
3. Of His sovereign choice
4. Of Christ's supremacy

B. Chapter 2 reminds us of

1. how far we have come
2. Our predicament
3. Our helpless situation
4. God's GRACE, MERCY, and LOVE though we were doing nothing to deserve it.

C. Today is a difficult reminder.

II. Text

A. Verses 1-2

1. A living breathing corpse, without the presence of Christ
2. A spiritually dead reality is impossible to overcome by the flesh
3. Dead: Nekros, void of life.
4. The reference to "dead" here is in reference to a circumstance that
 - a) We all face
 - b) That was inherited through original sin
 - c) That which is also willfully committed
5. Death is separation, and that separation has a remedy.
6. The prince of the power of the air:
 - a) This is in reference to the devil.

B. Verse 3

1. Children of wrath by nature
2. We were all there, we must all then find the rescue.

C. Verses 4-7: Next week

III. Point

A. **Dead in Trespasses and Sin**

1. This is the reference to sin that indicates intentional and original sin.
2. Willfully straying from the course, and missing the mark.
3. A Spiritual problem cannot be solved by a Physical solution.
4. This is a truth that we like to ignore, or explain away...
 - a) We like to think we have something worth saving
 - b) We like to think our input is necessary
 - c) We like to work for things, and this truth goes against that.
5. If we are Spiritually dead,
 - a) We cannot provide anything that will assist in a spiritual solution

- b) We cannot offer anything to overcome our situation
- c) Our WILL will never be enough to overcome.
- 6. Strong Willed:
 - a) determined to do as one wants even if other people advise against it.
 - b) Some are strong willed, but never strong enough.

B. The Course of this World

- 1. Our will in action will eventually follow a course:
 - a) The course of this world could be immorality
 - b) The course of this world could be self righteousness
 - c) But the course of this world leads us away to fruitless action.
- 2. Water flowing downhill will mark a course and change courses.
- 3. The river system is marked by curves and bends, as is the course of this world.
- 4. Illus: Choluteca Bridge in Honduras
- 5. Be careful how much time and energy you invest keeping up with the course of this world.
 - a) You will be left behind when the course changes
 - b) You will never accomplish your goal
 - c) Your time, energy, and money will run out, and the course of this world will keep on moving.
- 6. There was a time when the course of the world was set, and we set up our bridge, then the course changed.
- 7. This shows us the foolishness of our own will!

C. We all once lived

- 1. This is a statement of expectation of believers...we once walked.
- 2. The past is always going to be there, lets leave it there!
- 3. We are in the process of being shaped by the very presence of God.
- 4. God has directed us, and we follow.
- 5. Build your life on the rock of Christ, and the course will never change routes and leave you ineffective.
- 6. Have you made terrible decisions that you thought to be right?
 - a) Those decisions are wrong, but can also be used by God.
 - b) Allow God to grow you in wisdom and stature
- 7. We all once lived in the flesh, but the continual process of God's direction and sanctification is to take that out of us.
- 8. Biblical Illustration: The Exodus
 - a) The Israelites were in Egypt for hundreds of years
 - b) 10 plagues proved the 10 major deities of Egypt to be powerless
 - c) God showed His power in removing His people from Egypt.
 - d) Then at Kadesh Barnea they had to make a decision...
 - e) They chose to follow the majority, rather than Caleb and Joshua, and then had to wonder in the wilderness for 40 years.
 - f) God removed Israel from Egypt in a season, God removed Egypt out of Israel in a generation.
- 9. The past influences us, but we are overcomes!

IV. Close

- A. Let us live according to the Spirit
- B. Let us live according to the promise
- C. Let us live according to the direction of God!
- D. We need to Pray:
 - 1. Bring your nature, your will to the alter
 - 2. Bring your lack of knowledge to the alter
 - 3. Bring your self-righteousness to the alter
 - 4. Bring your doubts to the alter

5. Bring your fears to the alter
6. Bring yourself

Choluteca Bridge:

The Choluteca bridge is a 484 m. long bridge in Honduras in a region notorious for storms and hurricanes. The bridge, completed in 1998, was a modern marvel of engineering, designed to withstand powerful forces of nature. But as it turns out, in the same year that the bridge was commissioned for use, Honduras was hit by Hurricane Mitch, which caused considerable damage to the nation and its infrastructure.

Many other bridges were damaged, but the Choluteca bridge survived in near perfect condition. However, roads on either end of the bridge completely vanished, leaving no visible trace of their prior existence. More impressively, the Choluteca River (which is several hundred feet wide) had carved itself a new channel during the massive flooding caused by the hurricane. It no longer flowed beneath the bridge, which now spanned dry ground. The bridge quickly became known as “The Bridge to Nowhere.”

