

## ***Perilous Conditions***

### **Ephesians 2:1-3**

Book of Ephesians takes us to heaven explains all God has for us here on earth, **before** we're w/ Him in heaven. **Our great riches in Christ Jesus.** ***We are the wealthiest people in Hawaii.*** Jesus won these riches for us on the cross--yet many are ignorant of Gods blessings & live below their privilege.

By faith we enter into our inheritance, we are ***joint heirs w/ Christ***, all that is His is ours we've been ***blessed w/ every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. 1:3*** We are chosen, predestined, adopted into His family, redeemed & forgiven--all according to the ***riches of His grace***. We don't deserve it, can't earn it, will never lose it. All these ***in*** 90 x's Christ Jesus—we're in union w/ God by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All this ***while we were yet sinners Christ died for us***. God's grace—Paul describes our life before Christ—not a product of environment but of our sin nature. World conditions always in a state of change—ebb & flow—worse & better—No matter what the conditions God works.

Upsetting to read & listen to news w/o realizing God shines His light in darkest times. Our nation in free fall-right is wrong & wrong is right—innocent prosecuted while guilty go free—News media like a cult censor what don't want you to hear. Riots burn businesses called peaceful protest & peaceful gatherings called dangerous and arrest. These are perilous conditions & define our culture & society & it doesn't seem to be getting any better.

Distress of Israel under Jabin-terrible times which magnifies God's grace. No trade—no protection of businesses--**lawlessness** ***Walmart-Macy's-Target-Best Buy-etc closing--\$95 Billion.*** No magistrates to restrain & punish ***no prosecuting under \$950*** –Thieves and robbers rule—dangerous roads--because of criminals. Reason? Left God for Idols,

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provoking true God. In spite of peoples failure God raised up Deborah to deliver

We seem **incapable** of dealing w/ these issues, **powerless** to solve our own problems and govern ourselves. But from heavens point of view when conditions are the most threatening God's victory is close at hand.

In the 1950's *when we were one nation under God*, elementary school teachers were asked to list the top five problems in their school—They replied: 1. talking out of turn ,2. chewing gum 3. making noise 4. running in the hall 5. cutting in line. The same question was asked forty years later, after successfully kicking God out of our government & schools & the reply 1. drug and alcohol abuse 2. guns and knives in school 3. pregnancy 4 suicide 5. rape.

In Ch 2 Paul gives reasons why man behaves so badly—3 enemies we need to guard against that seek to blind us from all God has for us. It is foolish to think man can survive & govern himself apart from God. *Biosphere2*

Paul describes who we were before God's grace. He prays for the Ephesians that the eyes of their heart may be enlightened to know the riches in Christ. *How they were blessed w/ every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, predestined to adoption as sons, redeemed, forgiven, sealed w/ the H.S. of promise-mystery of God's will.*

Chapters 1 tells of all that God has done for us while Ch 2 tells of man's perilous condition—a contrasts: our wretchedness & God's goodness.

Universal condition whether those '*monsters of iniquity*' as Paris Reidhead in '*Ten Shekels and a Shirt*' puts it or son/daughters of *God's wrath*. God's diagnosis of fallen man & fallen societies.

## ***Perilous Conditions***

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So Paul in Ch 1 has described all that the Christian possesses in Christ and tells of our position in Christ. But first he describes what we were & where God got us from. Not pretty. He got us in a junk yard of broken lives--grave yard of sin & wretchedness & raised us to heavenly places w/ Christ Jesus--placed in the throne room of glory. What we were, before God got us—in a perilous condition.

**Eph 2:1-3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,  
2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world,  
according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in  
the sons of disobedience.  
3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the  
desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even  
as the rest.**

First--we were dead spiritually. Unable to know God--please Him--get to God. We were dead to God as a **corpse in 24 hr fitness**. Can't inspire, get in shape, work muscles--corpse can't hear you, he's dead.

When talking about spiritual things the person spiritually dead can't hear you--uninterested, to them it's foreign language. Like dead person in funeral home; can't talk to, scream at, tell jokes, gossip about the person--no reaction—they're dead.

Open your bible in the airport & call out to the people--**bible study time**, we're going to get into the word of God—no response cause spiritually dead. Can't feed a corpse--set a table w/ fine china--cook steak to perfection--whip up some garlic/wasabe mash potatoes--asparagus—**smell of steak--entice the corpse to eat** but he won't he's dead. So in sin/dead.

***Col 2:13 And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh...***

***Matt 13:13....while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.***

## **Perilous Conditions**

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True of everyone outside of Chris-**trespass & sin**. *Wages of sin is death Rom 6:23*

**Trespass** *paraptoma*; *lit* false step, crossing a boundary, deviating from right path.

**Sin** *hamartia*; *lit* missing the mark, falling short of standard-**Game**-  
These two words cover whole human condition.

Dead—Spiritually—Separated from the life of God. *Is 59:2 God's hand is not short that He cannot save nor is His ear heavy that He cannot hear but your iniquities have separated you from God and your sins have hidden His face from you.1 Tim 5:6 ...one living for pleasure only is dead while they yet live.'*

Planet earth is a spiritual morgue w/ no discrimination between the spiritually dead—rich, poor, educated, uneducated, servant, master--all are lost--will die eternal separation.

One corpse is not more dead than another & no status among corpses — once mortician has washed, dressed, made up, you can't tell if she was a socialite or bag lady, if he was CEO of top company or street person.

The path of deadness begins w/ disobedience to God. Gen 2:17 *In day you eat you die*. Gen 3:4 immediate spiritual death took place and eventual physical death. Adams disobedience and death has passed to all of us.

***Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--***

We remained in this state until Christ came & delivered us. But until then 3 enemies keep people in defiance of God. The world, the devil & the flesh.

*2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this **world**, according to the **prince** of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*

Enemy #1 is the **world**, it's system, pressure to conform **Rom 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world...Jesus said 'I am not of this world..' Jn :23**

## **Perilous Conditions**

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*John 17:14 "I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

Enemy #2 is the *devil* '*spirit now working in the sons of disobedience*'. Prince of power of air or atmosphere who rules over demonic realm—Satan is not Omnipresent, Omniscience or Omnipotent

*Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

How does he work? Lies! *John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.*

To Eve; *you shall not die*

*3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our **flesh**, indulging the desires of the flesh & of the **mind**, & were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

Enemy #3 is the *flesh*--our fallen nature, sinful desires that want to control- Paul breathing threats and murder '*wild animal*' animal nature—*horse in Mexico* --human nature, fallen & corrupt. Desires/passions of flesh—natural body appetites not evil in themselves-normal & natural, God given drives air, food, thirst, sleep, elimination, sex, etc.

Can be corrupted & distorted when **sleep** turns into sloth & **eating**- becomes gluttony & **thirst**-drunkenness, **sex**-promiscuity—natural desires turn sinful. *And of mind* intellectual pride-egotistical ambition-rejecting truth, evil thinking. Can't make excuses--born this way--forces too strong--devil made me do it—Take responsibility Paul starts out w/ you then switches to we & tells of things we were enslaved to. Not victims but willing participants. *Put a box of Krispy Kremes*

## **Perilous Conditions**

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Paul has one more nail in the coffin of the spiritually dead...*by nature children of wrath*. God's wrath is not a **bad temper** & any moment He can lose it. But a **predictable** attitude toward sin & evil. Not arbitrary or if He's in good mood or bad. But J.Stott '*God's personal, righteous, constant hostility toward evil, His settled refusal to compromise w/ it & his resolve instead to condemn it.*'

Finally we were Children of wrath, condemned--on death row--waiting for eternal punishment **Adam Clarke *this was the course of our life; we lived in sin, walked in sin, it was woven through our whole constitution, it tinged every temper, polluted every faculty, and perverted every transaction of life.***

*2:4-6 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, 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,*

## COMMUNION