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## Dead in Sin, Ephesians 2:1-3

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### Introduction

- Paul is describing the biblical view of humanity apart from God. This is what humans are like without God.
    - Note this: he is speaking about *everyone*. Not just one tribe or people. He includes the Gentiles, Jews, and himself.
      - This biblical description is one of a *universal human condition*.
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### We were dead.

- **Point:** We are spiritually dead without God.
  - Paul's description of humanity's spiritual condition outside of Christ reveals the *reality* of spiritual death caused by trespasses and sins.
- Consider what this means:
  - The cause: Paul explains that without Christ, everyone experiences spiritual death caused by sins and transgressions. This results in a disconnection from God and a lack of spiritual vitality in the soul.
  - The paradox: People who reject Christ may seem alive in their intellect and physical abilities, but their souls lack spiritual life. They cannot see Christ's glory, hear the Holy Spirit, or love God genuinely. They are spiritually lifeless.
  - The tragedy: The tragedy of fallen human existence lies in the fact that people created by God and for God are living without him.
    - Physical fitness, mental prowess, career success, and relational wealth cannot replace life with God. It is a living death. The paradoxical nature of this truth unveils the fundamental tragedy of human existence.

- Until Jesus Christ finds and saves us, we remain in this state of spiritual death. According to Paul, we need redemption and rescue.

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## We were enslaved.

- **Point:** We are enslaved to sin and death apart from Christ.
  - Paul highlights three influential forces that held humanity captive before their liberation through Jesus Christ: the world, the flesh, and the devil.
    - **The World:** Today's secular culture opposes God's kingdom principles, promoting dehumanization and rejecting his authority. This results in forms of injustice like political oppression and materialism. Many conform to societal norms and popular cultural ideals.
    - **The Devil:** The devil—"the prince of the power of the air"—exercises control over the unseen realm and commands other malevolent forces.
      - While it may be unpopular to acknowledge the existence of a personal devil and demonic influence in contemporary times, the Bible and historic Christianity affirm their reality. The devil influences individuals with temptations. Only the power of God could deliver humanity from the grip of the devil.
    - **The Flesh:** The flesh represents fallen human nature, characterized by self-centeredness and disobedience to God.
      - It encompasses both the desires of the body and the mind, including sins such as gluttony, lust, intellectual pride, and malicious thoughts.
      - The flesh is driven by pride. Our self-centeredness is a pervasive and oppressive bondage that requires liberation through Christ.
- **APP:** Live in the freedom that comes from Christ.
- Before encountering Jesus, humanity was ensnared by the captivating influences of the world, the flesh, and the devil. However, through Christ's redemptive work, believers have been set free from these oppressive forces.
  - As recipients of God's grace, we are called to reject the values of the world, crucify the desires of the flesh, and resist the temptations of the devil. Demonstrate your freedom from bondage and bear witness to the transforming power of Christ.

- Does our enslavement to sin imply that we are not responsible for our sins? Absolutely not. Let us not shift blame but take responsibility for our choices, embracing our identity as children of God and living obediently in His love and authority.

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## We were condemned.

- **Point:** We are condemned for our sins outside of Christ.
  - Paul further reveals that we were condemned as children of wrath. His wrath is a personal response to the presence of sin and a refusal to compromise with it.
- **APP:** Commit to being a messenger of salvation in Christ.
- Recognizing the gravity of our condition helps us grasp the necessity of a radical remedy.
  - Education and legislation are beneficial, but they cannot address the core issue of spiritual death, enslavement, and condemnation. As believers, we are entrusted with the message of good news, offering hope and salvation to the spiritually dead, captive, and condemned. Let us embrace the mission and share the transformative power of Christ's redemption.

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## Conclusion

- In light of Paul's powerful description of our pre-Christian state, we are confronted with the reality of our spiritual condition—dead, enslaved, and condemned.
  - The gravity of this truth should awaken us to the urgent need for a radical remedy. Only through the Gospel of Christ can we find true life, freedom, and forgiveness. This message invites us to make a decision—to embrace the transformative power of Christ's redemption and experience new life in Him.
  - Charles Spurgeon said, "Delaying to decide for Christ is to decide against Him." The choice is before us—to remain in spiritual death or to step into the abundant life offered through faith in Jesus Christ.