

Ephesians 2: 1-10 (part one)

August 16, 2020

The State We Are In (2:1-3)

The human being apart from God

Coming to grips with bad news is important part of good news

Dead in trespasses and sins **(2:1)**

Christian theology of the condition of the post-fall human

Consensus: In deep trouble

The unholy three: the flesh, the devil, and the world

The flesh **(2:3)**: *the sum of all of our natural and learned patterns, habits, instincts, tendencies, thoughts, feelings, reactions rooted in our unredeemed nature.*

The flesh and the rebel: carrying out the passions of mind and body **(2:3)**

The flesh and the Christian: dismantling the former network in body and mind

The prince of the power of the air, i.e. the devil **(2:2)**

Intelligent being bent on destroying God's good

Strongholds and footholds as "flesh-hooks": **Ephesians 4:27**

The course of the world **(2:2)**

Independent-of-God systems that "call" to the flesh inside of us: temptation

No temptation has in itself the power to overtake us: **1 Corinthians 10:13**

Temptation as a way to focus spiritual disciplines

The reality of the escalator (entropy of the soul)

Summary of the bad news: "children of wrath" (like everyone) **(2:3)**

Wrath as settled judgment

Judgment as declaring what in fact is.

Now the stage is set for the good news: God's gracious rescue! **(2:4-10)**

An Observation About Obedience to God's Laws

Death and life

Choose Life: Deuteronomy 30:15-19

The devil comes to destroy, Jesus comes to give full life: John 10:10

Using the metric of giving life as a clue to the right in ethical decision-making

The metric of destroying life as a clue to the wrong

Looking for edible food in an unfamiliar forest with a trustworthy guide

Pursuing obedience as the best way to live
