

Title: Life Before Christ

Text: Eph. 2:1-3

Cover Verse: Eph. 2:4-5b

“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...”

Main Point: Understanding our life before Christ helps us better appreciate the greatness of God’s power in salvation.

Outline

- I. Picture #1: Portrayed as spiritually **dead** (v. 1)
 - a. Unresponsive toward **God** (1a)
 - b. Unresponsive by **nature** (1b)
- II. Picture #2: Portrayed as sinfully **alive** (vv. 2-3)
 - a. Living for a **God-less** worldview (2a)
 - b. Living for a **Satanic** agenda (2b)
 - c. Living for our **ungodly** nature (3a)
 - d. Living under God’s **wrath** (3c)

Recommended Resources:

- Psalm 14; 51:5; 53
- Isaiah 1:2-6; 53:6; 61:10; 64:6-7
- Jeremiah 13:23; 17:9
- John 1:12-13; 6:29, 37, 43-44, 63-65; 8:47; 10:26
- Acts 13:48
- Romans 1:16; 18-32; 3:10-19, 21-26; 5:10, 12; 8:7-11, 13-16; 11:33-36
- 1 Corinthians 2:9-14
- 2 Corinthians 3:15-17, 4:4-6
- Galatians 5:16, 22-25
- Ephesians 2:1-10
- Colossians 2:13
- Titus 3:3-7

<https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/can-the-spiritually-dead-please-god>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritually-dead.html>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/why-we-need-a-savior-dead-in-sins>

<https://www.monergism.com/topics/total-depravity-man/dead-sin>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/why-we-need-a-savior-dead-in-sins>

- *Chosen By God*, R.C. Sproul
- *The Potter's Freedom*, by James R. White
- *The Enemy Within*, Kris Lundgaard
- *A Fight to the Death*, Wayne Mackk

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Even though we have different details surrounding our personal testimonies, one thing we do have in common is that we all were spiritually dead before Christ. How does spiritual deadness impact your understanding of your salvation and how you share your testimony?
2. Read John 17:14-19. How can we be “in the world” but not “of the world” – how can we be a part of the world without succumbing to the temptations of the world?
3. Read Ephesians 6:10-13. Even though we are no longer dead in sin and following the prince of the power of the air, what are the schemes of the devil that we should be on guard against as Christians?
4. Read 1 Cor. 2:1-5. How does an understanding of spiritual deadness impact our evangelism?