**THE LINE**

**Death to Life, Ephesians 2:1-10**

Sunday, December 12, 2021

**WE** **Slide 1 Thank you- prayers as Kim’s dad passed away on Wednesday.**

**Don’t answer out loud, but who has had the greatest impact in your life? When it comes to our world that person is Jesus Christ. Slide 2** We mark history based off of His life- BC = before Christ/AD = anno domini- “the year of our Lord” referring to His birth. **Even the newer BCE/CE- “before the common era” and “the common era”, which attempts to remove the religious aspect of BC/AD and avoid offending other cultures ends up using Jesus as it’s dividing point.**

**Whether we realize it or not Jesus Christ is the one who has had the greatest impact in our lives.** Even liberal news groups admit to the impact Jesus has had. **Slide 3 An article from the Huffpost.com.**

6 Surprising Ways Jesus Changed the World.

1. **Caring for children-** 1st century Christians rescued children left to die- religious practices of the day.
2. **Love of education-** study of the Bible led to studying other areas for God’s truth.
3. **Compassion for poor-** Christians didn’t fear death, cared for others during plagues.
4. **Humility-** ancient world valued self, getting ahead- they had no word for humility.
5. **Forgiveness-** ancient world valued rewarding friends and crushing one’s enemies.
6. **Humanitarian reform-** elevating women to equals, giving human value to slaves

**As great as that impact is in this series we’re going to look at the FAR MORE IMPORTANT eternal, spiritual impact Jesus made by coming to our world.** The truth is that none of the impact Jesus has made in the world matters if one’s spiritual condition/one’s eternity isn’t changed. **Our life here on earth is a few short years but we will exist for an eternity- either in hell fulfilling the sentence handed down by God for our sin, or in heaven experiencing the gift of salvation by accepting His offer of forgiveness through faith in Jesus’ taking our judgment on Him.**

**TODAY we’re going to hit this series running with a look at what our life is BC- before Christ and what it can be like AD- after Christ. Ready for this?!** Turn to one of my favorite groups of verses, Eph. 2:1-10, pg. 1170. **For some of you they’re familiar because I’ve either preached on them, or they’re the verses we went over when you prayed to accept Christ as your savior.** For others might be the first time you’ve read them so this is going to be like opening the best Christmas gift you’ve ever received. **Paul is reminding these Christians in Ephesus what God did for them when He saved them and how that impacts how they do life now that they’re saved.** Follow along as I read vv. 1-3. **Slide 4-6 Before Jesus has His IMPACT in our lives God sees us as being SPIRITUALLY DEAD.**

**GOD**

1. **BC- Spiritually Dead, Ephesians 2:1-3**
2. **“dead in trespasses and sins”-** nekros; so morally or spiritually lacking as to be in effect dead.
3. “trespasses”- paraptoma; a violation of moral standards, an offense, wrongdoing.
4. “sins”- amartia: a departure from either human or divine standards of uprightness.
5. God is having Paul tell us that this is how God views us.
6. We think “I’m alive physically so I must be good to go spiritually.”
7. I think about God, I pray to God, I even attend church sometimes.
8. But it’s God’s perspective that matters- He says without faith in Jesus we are dead to Him.

**HERE’S THE DEAL- look around you in this room EVERYONE is/was SPIRITUALLY DEAD. Slide 7**

1. **Everyone Is Dead in Their Trespasses and Sins. BC/BCE- Before Christ Everyone**
2. Paul, his team, the other apostles, these Christians, everyone who’s ever lived, you and me.
3. “ lust of the flesh”- lust/desires, God-given desires that we try to meet outside of God.
4. epithumia; a great desire for something, “flesh”- what is selfishly motivated.
5. God-given desires meant for us to worship God through experiencing them.
6. We take and make them our gods/what we worship- money, jobs, sex, senses.

**God says we “indulge” our desires.**

1. We “indulged” the desires of the flesh/mind-
2. poieo; living out/making a way for the selfishly motivated actions/thinking to be expressed.
3. “I need to follow my heart!” No you don't.
4. Our hearts are sin-filled, it's based on what we think not what God thinks.
5. Our thoughts are what is bringing God's wrath on us. **We follow God's heart**.

**Because of this pursuit of self, worshiping self, what we think- sin, not honoring God/what He thinks…**

1. We are “by nature children of wrath”
2. “nature”- physis; our being, or condition
3. “wrath”- orgay; strong/measured anger directed at wrongdoing; speaking of God’s ultimate judgment against our sin.
4. If you’re sitting here this morning/listening to the podcast and have not placed your faith in Christ God considers you spiritually dead to Him and in danger of experiencing an eternity in hell.

**THAT’S THE BAD NEWS but God’s given you the BEST GIFT anyone could ever give you- SPIRITUAL LIFE if you’ll accept it.** Look what God has Paul tell us about this gift. **Slide 8-10 The 1st thing is that we’re made SPIRITUALLY ALIVE BY GOD and it’s all connect to Jesus- see how many times Jesus is referenced?**

1. **AFTER JESUS- Spiritually Alive, Ephesians 2:4-7**
2. **Spiritually Alive By God, 2:4-7**
3. “But God”- only the infinitely powerful and loving God could step in and bring spiritual life to spiritually dead people.
4. He is “rich in mercy”- He is infinitely merciful; not giving us what we deserve.
5. It’s His “great love”- He is infinitely loving; doing what’s best for us no matter what it cost Him.
6. “agape”- self-sacrificial love shown through God the Son becoming man- Jesus Christ, living a perfect life, and taking God’s wrath for our sin on His shoulders.
7. What was best for us was to not experience God’s eternal wrath; what it cost Him was the death of Jesus Christ.
8. God “made us alive”.
9. God made us alive spiritually- He gave us spiritual life
10. “alive together with Christ”- God unites us together with Jesus who not only died for us, but rose from the dead to defeat our sin, remove our eternal judgment, and give us spiritual life.
11. This life comes through God the Holy Spirit indwelling us.

**Look how certain this spiritual life and eternity in heaven is.**

1. God “raised us up and seated us in the heavenly places”.
2. “raised/seated”- past tense expressing something that is certain to have been accomplished.
3. This is what happens when we’re given spiritual life so that when we die physically we can be confident we’ll be in heaven because it’s as if we’re already there.
4. We’re confident because all of it happens in and through Jesus Christ- 5X Paul tells us that these things happened in/through Jesus Christ.

**Why is this all accomplished in/through Jesus Christ?**

1. “so that”- God wants to show His infinite grace toward we who He saved in Christ Jesus.
2. Our salvation isn’t about us or anything we’ve done/or bring to the table.
3. Our salvation is all about God and what He’s done through God the Son.
4. It’s about showing us and everyone else His “infinite grace”- giving us what we don’t deserve.
5. “in the ages to come”- for all of eternity we will show God’s infinite grace.

**What does it take on our part? Faith that God can be trusted to save you through what Jesus did when He was on this earth.** We are made SPIRITUALLY ALIVE THROUGH FAITH. **Slide 11-12**

1. **Spiritually Alive through Faith, 2:8-9**
2. “by grace”- charis; God’s willingness to give us what we don’t deserve.
3. “through faith”- pistis; state of believing on the basis of the reliability of the one trusted.
4. Faith “not of ourselves”- it’s not our faith but the faith God gives us since we are spiritually dead, unable to respond in and of ourselves.
5. “it is a gift”- could be referencing faith or the salvation we receive; either way it is a gift God gives us which allows us to place it in Christ.
6. “not as a result of works”- our salvation isn’t based on any good works we do or religious activities we participate in.
7. “so that no one may boast”- kauchaomai; to take pride in something; salvation is God’s idea and God’s work and we can’t/shouldn’t try to claim responsibility for it.

**Any good/needed gift will change how you do life and it’s TRUE with God’s gift of salvation.** Look at the impact salvation will have on your life. **Slide 13-14 Our lives are TRANSFORMED, REMADE we don’t do life our way anymore.**

1. **Spiritually Alive For Good Works, 2:10**
2. BC- we thought how we thought, responded to people/circumstances the way we thought.
3. AD- we are now His- His workmanship/His masterpiece- we’ve been created in Christ Jesus, so we think and respond to people/circumstances the way God says we should.
4. “workmanship”- poiema; that which is made; we are made new by God, 2 Corinthians 5:17
5. God has made us what we are; God is good and everything He does is good and perfect including creating us into something new.
6. We are God’s masterpiece- taking what’s broken and falling apart and remakes it into something that is healed and growing.
7. “created”- ktizo; to bring something into existence; we were spiritually dead, physically alive people and now we are recreated as spiritually alive and physically alive people.
8. We were created for good works.
9. The purpose of God saving us was to carry out the good works He had planned for us since before He created the world.
10. It is through these good works that the gift of salvation God has given us can be seen and offered to those in our lives who need it.

**The greatest impact anyone can make is to change a person’s eternity and only God can/will do that through faith in Jesus’ merciful, gracious, loving sacrifice on the cross. Slide 15** As we close with our TAKEAWAYS let me ask you, have you accepted…you don’t have to wait until you get home to open it.

**YOU TAKEAWAYS**

1. **Accept God’s gift of spiritual life/salvation.**

**A- Admit** you’re dead in your trespasses and sins.

**B- Believe** that Jesus took God’s wrath on Himself for you.

**C- Confess** let God know you believe and ask Him to forgive/save you.

**I can lead you in a prayer.**

**Slide 16 As the band comes to close if you’ve already accepted God’s gift you’ve been commanded by Him to give that gift out to others.**

1. **Give out God’s gift of spiritual life/salvation- You’ve Been Gifted Cards.**

**PODCAST:** BC = Spiritually Dead, AD = Spiritually Alive, Ephesians 2:1-10