

Ephesians
Week Two
The Bad News
Ephesians 2:1-3
Pastor Steve Treichler
February 20th, 2022 (8:30 and 10:30am), FB Live (10am)
For His Glory and our joy!

Passage:

Ephesians 2:1-3 (in context of 2:1-10)

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Message Notes:

Introduction – *“Thanks for your prayers”*

The Bad News – Ephesians 2:1-3

“Dead in your transgressions and sins” (Ephesians 2:1)

Genesis 2:15-16

Genesis 3:4-10

Romans 5:12

“Used to walk” (Ephesians 2:1)

“Followed the world, the flesh and the devil” (Ephesians 2:2)

“All of us” (Ephesians 2:3a)

“Gratifying the cravings” (Ephesians 2:3b)

“We were, by nature, children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3c)

John 3:16-18

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

Romans 1:18, 25

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...

²⁵They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

2 Thessalonians 1:7b-10

^{7b}This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power ¹⁰on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

Gospel Application: *How much do you think about the bad news in order to make the good news that much sweeter?*

Scripture Passages used (New International Version)

Genesis 2:15-16

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

Genesis 3:4-10

⁴“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵“For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

Romans 5:12

¹²Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned...

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Quotes (used or referred to):

God's wrath promises that in the end, wrongs done to the vulnerable will be punished, injustices unresolved will be paid up, and the arrogant who abuse others will be silenced. Of course, each of us has done injustice, has expressed arrogance, and has misused power; thus, each of us can rightly be called a child of wrath. Without softening this powerful warning to those who need to mend their ways (see also Eph 5:1–8), it is important to note that Paul's main argument in this sentence is that God is rich in mercy, shown in granting to believers a life in Christ and raising up and seating with Christ those who embrace him by faith. No one needs to remain a child of wrath. No one is doomed to linger in spiritual death.

~ Lynn H. Cohick, [*The Letter to the Ephesians*](#), ed. Ned B. Stonehouse et al., *New International Commentary on the Old and New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2020), 149–150.

There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. To those who knock it is opened.

~ C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*, Chapter 9 (1946)

But what does it mean to lose our souls? To answer this question, Jesus uses his own solemn imagery—Gehenna ("hell" in Mk 9:47 and ten other Gospel texts), the valley outside Jerusalem where rubbish was burned; the worm that dieth not (Mk 9:47), an image, it seems, for the endless dissolution of the personality by a condemning conscience; fire for the agonizing awareness of God's displeasure; outer darkness for knowledge of the loss, not merely of God, but of all good and of everything that made life seem worth living; gnashing of teeth for self-condemnation and self-loathing.

These things are, no doubt, unimaginably dreadful, though those who have been convicted of sin know a little of their nature. But they are not arbitrary inflections; they represent, rather, a conscious growing into the state in which one has chosen to be. The unbeliever has preferred to be by himself, without God, defying God, having God against him, and he shall have his preference. Nobody stands under the wrath of God except those who have chosen to do so. The essence of God's action in wrath is to give men what they choose, in all its implications: nothing more, and equally nothing less. God's readiness to respect human choice to this extent may appear disconcerting and even terrifying, but it is plain that his attitude here is supremely just—and is poles apart from the wanton and irresponsible inflicting of pain which is what we mean by cruelty.

J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, page 171.



Ephesians



Ephesians 2:1-10

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The Bad News

**The Bad News
+ The Good News**

The Bad News
+ The Good News
+ The Great News

The Bad News
+ The Good News
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The Gospel

THE BAD NEWS

Ephesians 2:1-3

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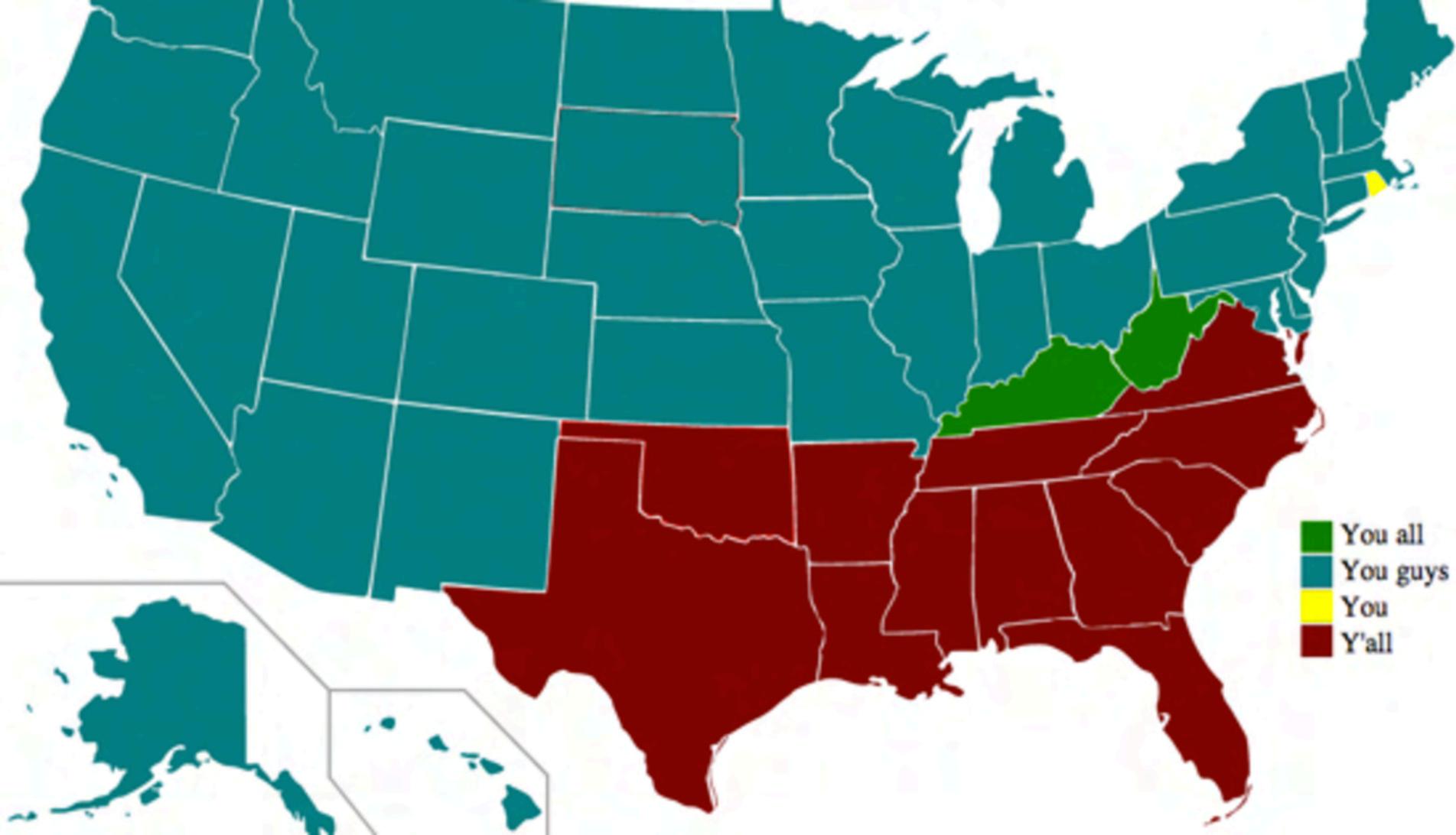


**THE WORLD,
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“All of us”

Ephesians 2:1-3

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“Gratifying the cravings”

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“We were, by nature, children of wrath”

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WE WERE ONCE BY NATURE

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EPHESIANS 2:3



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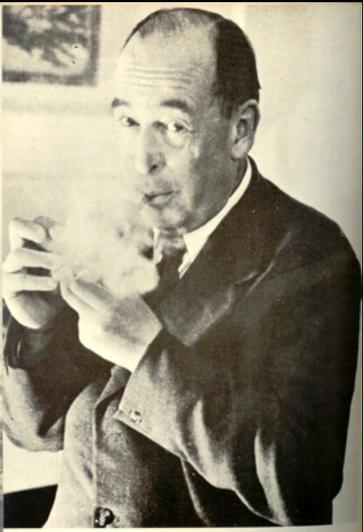
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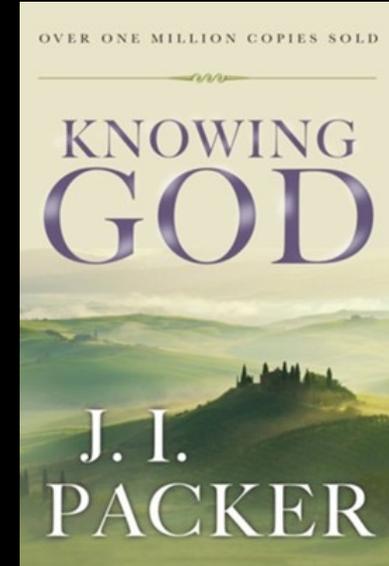


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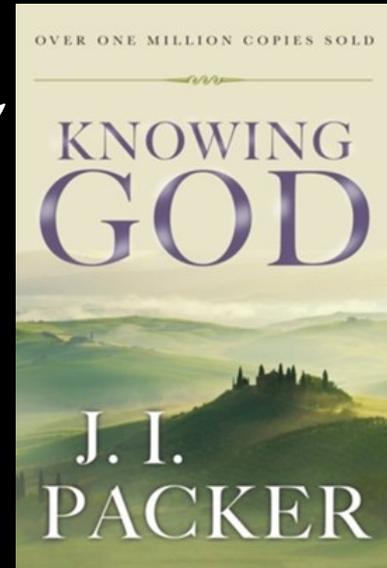


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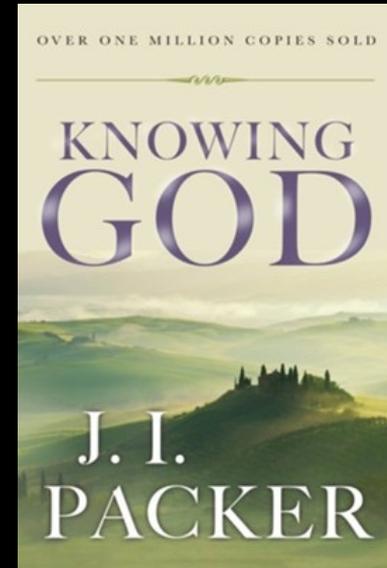


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Gospel-Centered Application:

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