

PAST FOR SOME, STILL TRUE FOR OTHERS
Eph. 2:1-3

Intro: The only true picture of man is the one you get in the Word of God.

Our ideas of evangelism reflect our understanding of this important doctrine.

Here, in Ephesians, Paul, after the exalted teaching of ch. 1, is calling upon the believer to come to look down again into the pit from which he has been lifted, or, to state it even better, to look into the grave from which he has been raised.

Did Lazarus ever go back to look at the tomb where his body had been three days? No one knows, but it would be reasonable to expect that he did. What would he have done there? He doubtless would have stopped to give praise to God.

Here many are looking back; some are looking at what they are right now.

I. Our ^{Past} Condition (Eph. 1:1)

Paul states this to indicate:

- 1) What man always has been up to the time of salvation.
- 2) Why he has been this way: "Trespases and sins."

II.

THREE ENEMIES: THE WORLD - AROUND US
THE DEVIL - ABOVE US
THE FLESH - WITHIN US

OUR WALK: ACCORDING TO THE WORLD
ACCORDING TO THE FLESH

OUR COMPANIONS: SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE
CHILDREN OF WRATH

THE ROOT OF THE TROUBLE: BY NATURE.
NOT BY CHANCE
NOT BY SIN
NOT BY ACCIDENT - BUT BY NATURE