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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**Ephesians 2:1-3**

**Lesson #9**

**The way we were**

**09/24/2017**

**"Because inside your dog  
is the soul of a wolf"**



**Inside your soul are two natures**

**"the old man"  
in the likeness of  
Adam**

**"the new man"  
in the likeness of  
Christ**

2

**Paul is concerned that we see:**

**Who we are in Christ  
(1:3-14)  
and  
who Christ is in God's plan  
(1:15-23)**

**but also,  
who we were without  
Christ (2:1-3)**

3

**How do we recognize "the old" self?**

## **Signs of Spiritual death**

**Ephesians 2**

"<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup> Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest."

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## **Signs of Spiritual death**

**Ephesians 2**

"<sup>1</sup> And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,"

**Matthew 7**

"<sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. <sup>27</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall."

**The Law and the Gospel are about sin,  
death, and salvation.**

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## Signs of Spiritual death

*Ephesians 2*

"1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,"



Carl Jung

"Deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, 'Something is out of tune'."

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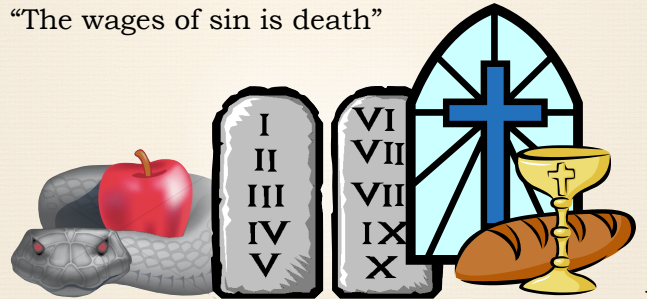
## Signs of Spiritual death

*Ephesians 2*

"1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,"

*Romans 8:23*

"The wages of sin is death"



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**There are three philosophical questions in life and they all revolve around one issue -**



**Death!**  
**Mortality**  
**Meaning**  
**Morality**

8

**Death is a major theme in the Christian faith.**



**Death is a visual aid to the Gospel.**

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*Matthew 5:3*

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."



**A sign of spiritual life is awareness of our separation from God through our sin.**

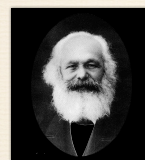
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## Signs of Spiritual death

*Ephesians 2*

"1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,"

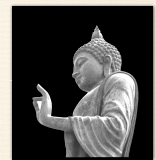
### 1. Misread Diagnosis of the human dilemma



Marx

(detachment from the spiritual world)

**Humanity needs social revolution.**



Buddha

(detachment from the material world)

**Humanity needs inner enlightenment.**

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## Signs of Spiritual death

*Ephesians 2*

“2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

### 2. Misguided Direction

in addressing the human dilemma.

*Romans 1:25*

“For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

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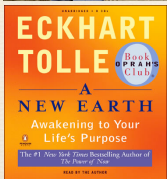
**“I” - inner instincts**

**“It” - social contract**

**“God” - the Creator**

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## The New Earth Church



*“I am a Christian who believes that Jesus came to show us how to live lives that are in touch with the spirit within.”*

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## An emerging American culture

*The “God Within” cult of ethical therapeutic pantheism*

***It’s all about “ME”***

- ✓ Political - **Libertarianism**
- ✓ Religious - **Gnosticism**
- ✓ Psychological - **Narcissism**
- ✓ Social - **De-institutionalism**
- ✓ Ethical - **Relativism**

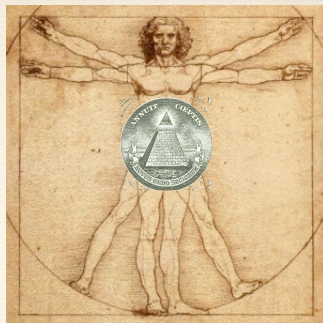
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## An inherited American culture

### The Enlightenment

- Empirical **Reason** - over tradition, religion, and superstition.
- Philosophical **Materialism** - Reality is nothing but space, time, energy, and matter.
- Individual **Freedom** - Question all external authority. Roles & value are based on achievements.

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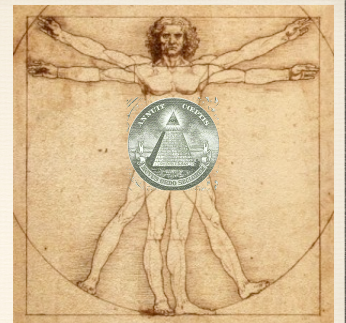


### Secular Humanism

Defining reality and making decisions as though God did not exist or did not matter.

- Total **Temporality**
- Radical **Relativity**
- Absolute **Autonomy**
- Egocentric **Entitlement**
- Metaphysical **Materialism**
- Comprehensive **Contingency**

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## Signs of Spiritual death

*Ephesians 2*

“<sup>3</sup> Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”

### 3. Misplaced Desires in worship

“passions” - old nature

“materialism” - scientism

“Spirit” - image of God

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## Signs of Spiritual death

### 1. Rejecting the reality of sin

- The root of our dilemma is spiritual.
- Our spiritual response to life shapes us.

### 2. Embracing the spirit of this age

- Our culture pressures us to define reality and make decisions as though God is not there.
- Our culture pressures us to see life revolving around us and our plans.

### 3. Indulging the passions of the flesh

- Being true to ourselves means following our passions and tolerating moral libertarianism.

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## Our challenge

- This was our PAST but we all still struggle with some of these things.

*Galatians 5*

“<sup>16</sup> But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.** <sup>17</sup> For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”

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## Our challenge

- This was our PAST but we all still struggle with some of these things.

**Note that “death” to sin does not mean we are incapable of sinning.**

*Romans 6*

“<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? . . . <sup>11</sup> Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

**Does spiritual “death” mean that we are incapable of responding to the Gospel?**

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## Our challenge

- This was our PAST but we all still struggle with some of these things.
- We eagerly await the full redemption of our bodies at Christ’s return.

*Romans 8*

“<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.**”

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## Our challenge

- This was our PAST but we all still struggle with some of these things.
- We eagerly await the full redemption of our bodies at Christ’s return.
- We are challenged to live in a manner worthy of our calling.

*Ephesians 4:1*

“. . . walk in a manner **worthy of the calling** with which you have been called.”

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### ***Our challenge***

- This was our PAST but we all still struggle with some of these things.
- We eagerly await the full redemption of our bodies at Christ's return.
- We are challenged to live in a manner worthy of our calling.

**Old Life**



**New Life**

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***But how do we deal with the signs of spiritual death that dwell around and within us?***



**Stay tuned:  
The rest of  
Ephesians will  
address this  
challenge.**

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### ***Ephesians 4***

“<sup>22</sup> that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup> and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

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**There are two  
natures in every  
person.**



**The one you feed is the one that grows.**

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