

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study

For

July 30, 2020

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Title: "A Picture of Who You Used to Be"

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 2:2

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." (Eph. 2:2) (KJV)

I. Introduction

A. Do you ever look through old photographs to reminisce about the past? As you look through those old pictures, does it ever make you drift back to moments in the past that are special to you or perhaps unpleasant?

B. Photographs are reminders of times past and who we were back then, reminders of what we once looked like, what we once did, and so on.

C. Ephesians 2:2 is like looking at a photograph of what we were like before Jesus Christ came into our lives. The KJV says, "Wherein in time past ..." But the Greek is better translated, "**Back then ...**"

D. Let's examine this verse together and my prayer is that you will be blessed, thankful and ready to offer God praise for what He has done and is continuing to do in you and through you.

II. Exposition [Part I]

A. The Apostle Paul reminds his readers, "Back then ... you **walked** according to the course of this world."

B. The word "walked" is the Greek word **peripateo**, a compound of the words **peri** and **pateo**. The word **peri** means around and the word **pateo** means to *walk*.

C. When these two words are joined together, it means to **walk around habitually in one general area all the time**. The Greek grammar implies that it is a path from which these people cannot deviate. To be stated another way, you might say, they are trapped on this path - bound to walk it again and again.

D. The verse goes on to say, "Back then ... you walked **according to ...**" The phrase "according to" is from the Greek word **kata**, which speaks of something that is **forceful** or **dominating**.

E. By using this little word, Paul reminds us that before we met the Lord, we "**habitually walked around under the dominating influence of this world, unable to alter the path we were taking**."

Deeper Insight: Although unaware of our condition, we were spiritual prisoners that were *dominated* and *manipulated* by the influence of a lost society.

III. Exposition [Part II]

A. Paul goes on to say, "Back then ... you walked according to the *course* of this world ..." The word "**course**" is from the Greek word *aion*, a word that describes a specific, allotted period of time, such as an age, a specific era, or a generation.

B. This word also refers to *the influence of a particular generation on a period of time*, like a decade, a Century, or a Millennium.

C. The word *aion* also denotes the *spirit* of a period; for instance, the 1920 were known as "**the Roaring Twenties.**" The spirit of the 1960s and 1970s were referred to (in the U.S.) as a "rebellious" Period because of drug use and the strong reaction against the Viet Nam War.

D. Paul then adds the next word: "Back then ... you walked according to the course of this *world* ..." This word "**world**" in Greek is *kosmos*, a word that pictures *something that is fashioned or ordered*.

E. In Ephesians 2:2 the word **Kosmos** denotes *systems and institutions in society*, such as fashion, education, or entertainment.

F. Because Paul uses the word **Kosmos**, he paints a picture of people who have no standard like *God's Word* by which to live; therefore, they are guided by the constantly changing ethics and whims of the times.

Comment: If you really think about it, entertainment, fashion, and whatever else is popular at the time, are the forces that guide the lost world.

For perhaps a little bit more clarity to increase your understanding, this verse could be stated this way:

"Don't you remember what you used to be like? Well, back then you habitually walked around trapped and unable to get off the track you were on - totally unaware that you were being dominated and manipulated by the constantly fluctuating thinking of the day, by the whims of the times, and by whatever society was giving its approval to at that moment." ((Think about it))

G. That is who you were but a Pastor that I know stated it this way: **"THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW."**

IV. That Was Then - This is Now

A. Now that you are a child of God and you have been redeemed, sanctified, and indwelt by the precious Holy Spirit, consider the following:

1. Think of all the people you know (and, not to be judgmental), but the people you know who do **NOT** have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. They need to hear about Him who can translate their entire life, through the power of the Holy Spirit, from darkness into the marvelous **Light**.

Are you willing to tell them about the Living Christ?

V. Inter-active Time

A. It's now inter-active time. Please fill in the blank spaces to the biblical passages that follow. All passages are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible. However, if you are using a different Bible version, please write out the entire verses, using the version that you have.

"Therefore if any man be in _____, he is a new _____:
old things are _____ away; behold, all _____ are
_____ new." (2 Cor. 5:17)

"And be not _____ to this world: but be ye _____
by the _____ of your _____, that ye may prove what
that good; and _____, and _____, will of God."
(Rom. 12:2)

"But as he which hath _____ you is _____, so be ye _____ in all manner of conversation." (1 Peter 1:15)

"Love not the _____, neither the things that are in the _____. If any man love the _____, the love of the _____ is not in him." (1 John 2:15)

VI. Questions for you to Consider

- A. Have you stopped to think about what you were like before you were saved?
- B. Seeing God's saving work in your own life and how far He has brought you, is there anyone in particular you can think of who needs to hear your testimony of God's grace and saving power?
- C. Have you thanked God **today** for saving you from being completely dominated by the enemy and the world's system?

Closing comment: My prayer is that this study session has been a blessing to you and that you are encouraged in the Lord.

Please feel free to share this lesson with others.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin