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## \_\_\_\_\_Program 12\_\_\_\_\_

### The Results of Mankind's Fall

The sin and pride of the world, apart from Christ, is: "I am sufficiently able, so I really don't need God. I'll rule myself by myself, thank you."

While the sin and pride of the Christian is: "I'll give Christ permission to help **ME** be sufficiently good enough, and I will advance His kingdom by **my own efforts**." "Yes, I know that Christ is my Savior, but, I will try and He can help **ME** do **my** best. I know that He will be pleased with how hard I am trying, and bless me for it." The creation is either desperately trying to take the place of the Creator, or trying to please God through its own self-effort.

In the last days, the church, not the world is in a very dangerous and sad state of affairs. The Laodicean church of Revelation 3:14 is a picture of the last church age. Listen how desperate this church is: "You are neither hot or cold; you are lukewarm, I will spue you out of my mouth: Because you say, 'I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing'; and know not that you are wretched, and miserable and poor, and blind, and naked; I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and white raiment, that you may be clothed and that the shame of your nakedness does not appear; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see." Jesus is knocking at the door of the church, asking to come in. For his Laodicean church has excluded Him.

Fallen moral man thinks he can strive to self-justify by finding his highest moral potential, while justifying his every motive. The religious spirit is full of devilish witchcraft, but has no idea how wretched it is. Pride rides on the back of Satanic self-righteousness. But humility, the cry for mercy, is the one who will come to the foot of the Cross, agreeing with God that without Christ he is totally lost and dead in his trespasses and sins (Eph.2:1) and are in desperate need of a Savior.

At the Fall, Satan invaded our God created humanity, perverting our spirit, soul and body. But thankfully, Christ came to destroy the works of devil (I John3:8), and by our faith, the Holy Spirit will transform us in spirit, soul and body into His glorious New Creation image.

#### **Who Were We?**

- **Eph.2:1** Dead in trespasses and sins
- **Eph.2:2** The spirit that works in the children of disobediences
- **Eph.2:3** They were by nature children of wrath
- **John3:19-21** Light is come into the world, and men, love darkness rather than light
- **Rom.1:27** Received in themselves the recompense of their error
- **Acts13:46** Judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life
- **1John3:10** Children of the devil
- **John8:44** Ye are of your father the devil
- **Rom.6:17** Slaves of sin
- **Rom.9:23** Vessels of wrath
- **1John4:6** We contained the Spirit of error

- **John 4:4** We contained Satan who is in this world
- **Eph. 5:8** We were formerly darkness
- **Col. 2:13** We were dead in our sins and uncircumcised flesh
- **Rom. 3:10** None of us were righteous
- **Rom. 3:12** We were altogether unprofitable and no one is good
- **Rom. 3:13** Our tongue is full of deceit
- **Rom. 3:14** Our mouth is full of cursing and bitterness
- **Rom. 3:16** Misery is in our way
- **Rom. 3:17** The way of peace we have not known
- **Ezk. 36:27** We had a stony heart
- **Jer. 17:9** Our hearts were deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked
- **Rom. 7:5** The motions of sin worked in our members bringing forth death
- **II Cor. 4:4** Our minds were blinded
- **Col. 1:13** We were held by the powers of darkness

Who **WERE** we before we became "Born Again" Christians? Or, why were we so self-centered; so full of pride; so full of blame; so shameful, and guilt ridden? Here is the reason why:

Most people recoil at this list but here it is straight from the Bible: We were Dead in our trespasses and sins; we contained the spirit of error; we were vessels of wrath; our father was the devil; we were the children of the devil; the devilish spirit worked spontaneous in us and caused us to be disobedient to the gospel; we actually had a fallen nature filled with wrath; we often judged ourselves unworthy of everlasting life; we loved the darkness more than the light of Jesus. It was Satan, the god of this world, in us that caused us to love self-centered darkness as well as our evil deeds. We actually were slaves to sin with no way to deliver ourselves. We received in ourselves the consequences of our unrighteousness. There is not one person righteous, not even one person who is good. Actually our tongues are filled with deceit, cursing, and bitterness. There is only misery and no peace in our way of doing things. Our hearts are made of stone, and Satan indwelt hearts are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. But worst of all we are totally blind to our condition because the powers of darkness hold us captive. Pretty bleak! I think that we all need a Savior!

The travesty of most of Christian teaching is that we teach, we are still lost and saved at the same time. No one would say it that way, but don't we often hear that we Christians are "saved, sinners". That cannot be true. We are either saved by faith in Christ, or lost in unbelief. How can we have saving faith in Christ, but still be a lost sinner? It sounds pretty schizophrenic to me. It is impossible to have two natures at once! If this were true, then the fullness of the Cross would be ineffective. The Gospel is the exchange of natures. We exchanged the old nature (Satan in us) for the new nature (Christ in us). The two nature theory keeps Christians double minded. Schizophrenic Christianity keeps us ever striving to improve, and trying to keep and maintain our own salvation. You might ask? "But how can we weak humans do that? Do we strive to kill off fleshly tendencies?" Try as you will, it will never be done that way. The Cross accomplished what no fallen human could have ever done. We were saved completely, once and for all by the finished work of the Cross. "He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." (Heb. 7:25)

This is how most humans think: "Wait a minute, don't tell me that we humans are **that** lost!" I believe the problem lies in the way we have "normalized" the Fall of man. We think: "It is only normal to be self interested, self-centered, taking care of number one, and anyway, no one is perfect". Man has trivialized his lost-ness to the degree that it has been reduced to a cartoon like situation where a man and a woman ate an apple that they shouldn't have eaten, and God spanked their little hands.

Psychology tells us that children that have had a hellish upbringing end up normalizing and trivializing their childhood experiences. I believe we all have done that very same thing, not realizing how far we have fallen from the perfection of our first God-given created form. You might ask, "fallen from what", or should I say, "fallen from who"? We have unknowingly fallen into the hands of a "Usurper" who has stolen us away and raped us of our true inheritance in Christ. The Bible tells us that unbelievers are held by the powers of darkness to do Satan's will which is always rebellion and hatred against God's original plan for mankind. Satan, the wicked created counterfeiter, roars like a lion trying his best to take God's place as Lord and Master of the universe. But he fails. He will always fail. And forevermore he will remain a failure! Although, he does know that his time is short, yet his double mindedness will not let him truly receive it. His self-deception only makes him more furious and determined to replace the Creator. Good luck, although we know that he won't succeed. However, he is a liar, and even lies to himself and refusing to believe that he is wrong, or that he deserves his due punishment.

It was hard for me to realize the gravity of my own lost-ness, as well. But I saw the light of the scriptures after the Holy Spirit revealed it to me. It was then that I woke up to the truth that I was on my way to Hell. I used to think, "yes, I have done some bad things, but not bad enough to go to hell." I don't think that we have a right to disagree with our Creator's Word on the subject. The day came when I had to agree with God and stop calling Him a liar. Man is lost and fallen, and in desperate need of a Savior.

As we move on from seeing man in his lost condition, let us see how God has provided complete deliverance from the consequences for our sins, but also deliverance from the power over sin in our daily lives as well.