

OUR SPIRITUAL TRAJECTORY BEFORE CHRIST

Headlong into Damnation

- Slaves to sin
- Enemies of God
- Alienated from our Creator
- Under the judgment and penalty of death eternal separation from God

THE WALKING DEAD

Romans 7:24 - "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the **body of this death**?"

- Condemned man's was sentenced = chained to dead body
- Corpse could not be removed
- Decaying body was ever present
- The rot and putrefaction would eat away at the condemn man's body
- The smell, isolation, and foreboding presence and oozing mess of the corpse would eat away at the condemn man's mind and soul

A NEW TRAJECTORY

Father God's love caused Jesus Christ to change the trajectory.

- Through His atoning death, our sins are forgiven; the written judgment against us is blotted out
- Through His resurrection, we are raised to new life in Him
- Through the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, we are empowered to life in the power of the resurrected life

A NEW IDENTITY

- Colossians 2:11-15
 - <u>Circumcised</u> by the circumcision of Christ that put off the body of the sins of the flesh''
 - Buried and raised with Him in baptism
 - <u>Made alive</u> together with Him
 - Forgiven all our trespasses

CIRCUMCISION

- Denotes a cutting off or removal.
- In this context, circumcision is not physical, but spiritual
- The <u>ruling power</u> of the believer's flesh or sinful nature <u>is</u> broken or removed by Christ.

DO WE BELIEVE OUR IDENTITY HAS CHANGED?

- Believe it
- Say it
- Live and Practice it

PUT TO DEATH...

- Put to death = "nekrosate" = To make dead
- We must "make dead" the things in our lives that are contrary to our new identity in Christ
- Not simply suppress or control but wipe out /completely exterminate
- The things: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire and covetousness
 - Are part of the way the world lives and **not** the way Jesus lives
- Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience

PUT OFF...

- Definition: cast off, cast away, put down, lay down, stripping off, discard
 - 1. wholly put off from one's self
 - 2. separation from what is put off
 - 3. wholly to strip off for one's self (for one's own advantage)
 - 4. despoil, disarm
- separate physically (distance) and temporally (time)
- "the entire stripping off."
- a total break with the old position and condition; not a reform but a revolution of the man's standing and state.

PUT OFF...

- Put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another...
- "Lesser Sins" to some, the less obvious and less grievous sins
- Paul challenges us to put off the old man in *every* area of our lives
 - Put off all those old habits, just as you would discard an outworn suit of clothes or shoes with no longer fit you
- Putting off the old man with his deeds means that in Jesus Christ, the saints of God are *different* people

HOW?

- Believe it
- Say it
- Live and Practice it