

Discuss:

Rather than approaching Scripture through the lens of ever-changing culture, we approach culture through the lens of God's timeless truth.

Eph. 2:2-3, Paul describes three influences that keep people in the grave:

2 in which you once walked, following **the course of this world**, following the **prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in **the passions of our flesh**, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind.

- the world (the ways of this world)
- the devil (the ruler of the power of the air) In the NT the air is the realm of the demonic.
- the flesh (our fleshly desires) One of the sad and destructive desires of the sinful nature is the desire for self-rule.

Which of the three seems to attack most?

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NLT Study Bible Text,) **But God** is so **rich in mercy**, and he **loved us so much**,⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, **he gave us life** when he raised Christ from the dead.

But God reminds us that salvation came at **God's initiative**. The focus is not on us but on God! And why did He act? Because He is rich in mercy and because of His grace.

What did God do?

2:5 He made us alive with Christ; he gave us spiritual life. **When you are dead, only a resurrection can help you....(BUT GOD.)**

Where do you need to experience a "But God..." moment?

What is God saying to you today?

What are you going to do about it?