

A LIVING OR A DYING LIFE

“In this verse the human race is described as a sick man, whose disease is so far advanced that he is altogether without strength: no power remains in his system to throw off his mortal malady, nor does he desire to do so; he could not save himself from his disease if he would, and would not if he could.

I have no doubt that the apostle had in his eye the description of the helpless infant given by the prophet Ezekiel; it was an infant—an infant newly born—an infant deserted by its mother before the necessary offices of tenderness had been performed; left unwashed, unclothed, unfed, a prey to certain death under the most painful circumstances, forlorn, abandoned, hopeless.

“Our race is like the nation of Israel, its whole head is sick, and its whole heart faint. Such, unconverted men, are you! Only there is this darker shade in your picture, that your condition is not only your calamity, but your fault. In other diseases men are grieved at their sickness, but this is the worst feature in your case, that you love the evil which is destroying you.

In addition to the pity which your case demands, no little blame must be measured out to you: you are without will for that which is good, your ‘cannot’ means ‘will not,’ your inability is not physical but moral, not that of the blind who cannot see for want of eyes, but of the willingly ignorant who refuse to look.”

Charles Spurgeon

Our very being is corrupt, and the cause of this inner corruption is sin.

All of this is due to our sinful hearts, or our sin-nature.

Because we are **sinners**, we **act** sinfully; sin is what we do when we are not seeking our life's satisfaction in relationship with God.

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

“The gospel of Jesus and His many precious blessings are not ultimately what makes the good news good, [the gospel of Jesus and His precious blessings are] means of seeing and savoring the Savior Himself.

Forgiveness is good because it opens the way to enjoying God Himself. Justification is good because it wins access to the presence and pleasure of God Himself. Eternal life is good because it becomes the everlasting enjoyment of Jesus Himself. All God’s good gifts are loving to the degree that they lead us to God Himself.

This is the love of God: doing everything necessary, most painfully in the death of His Son, to enthrall us with what is most deeply and durably satisfying—namely, Himself.”

John Piper

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