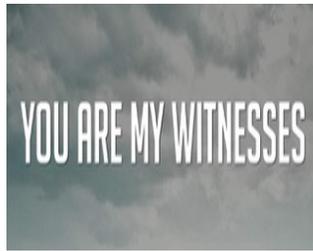


## “You Are My Witnesses!”

### Part 4: “MAN: Dead in Sin!”

**Ephesians 2:1-3; Matthew 5:48;  
Romans 3:10-12, 23**



Introduction: Even some in the church today hesitate to talk about sin or judgment because it may “turn people off.”

In order to be a good witness for Jesus you must be willing to present people with God’s diagnosis of their spiritual condition, and then share the cure that brings healing and life!

***Without Jesus, without grace, ALL people are spiritually DEAD and unable to heal themselves and so make themselves alive!***

#### I. The true condition of people apart from God’s grace in Christ ...

As long as people believe they are “fine,” without God, without believing in Christ, without the Church, our words will fall on deaf ears.

#### **Ephesians 2:1-3:**

While psychology and sociology are able to give some insights into human behavior, they cannot heal broken, spiritually dead, lost human beings!

We are ALL, “by nature,” DEAD in sin, and are thus “*children of* wrath.”

#### **Romans 1:18-22:**

**Romans 3:9-20:** “None is righteous, no not one; ... .. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless ...” (vss. 10,12).

#### **Jeremiah 17:9:**

#### **Romans 3:23, 6:23a ...**

It is the refusal to acknowledge the sinful nature that leaves those searching for solutions to human behavior without answers.

#### **Proverbs 29:18:**

#### **John 3:16-21:**

The problem is INSIDE people! The problem is godlessness.

#### II. The impossibility of “healing” apart from God’s grace in Christ ...

Satan’s lie is to put YOURSELF first! So people encourage self-empowerment, self-identity, self-fulfillment ... to help people develop a good self-image and self-esteem!!

#### **Jeremiah 13:23:**

**Romans 8:6-8:** “For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God” (vss. 7-8).

“Sin” means, literally, “missing the mark.”

#### **Isaiah 64:6:**

God requires perfection (**Matthew 5:48**) ... and not one person can make themselves righteous.

As long as people believe they can heal themselves or make themselves “better,” they will not see their NEED for Jesus.

#### III. The only hope for healing: God’s grace in Christ ...

The presentation of the Gospel leads to a call to repentance and a commitment to Jesus Christ.

#### II Corinthians 5:16-21, 6:1-2:

**I Corinthians 1:21:** “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach (proclaim), to save those who believe!”

HEALING comes when by the new will (from the work of the Spirit), you draw near to Christ ... and NOW you CAN change ... not to GET saved, but because you have been saved by the grace of God in Christ!!

#### II Corinthians 10:3-5:

Don’t give people “half of the Gospel!” Offer them grace, confront them with the reality of their sin, and point them to Christ for forgiveness and life!!