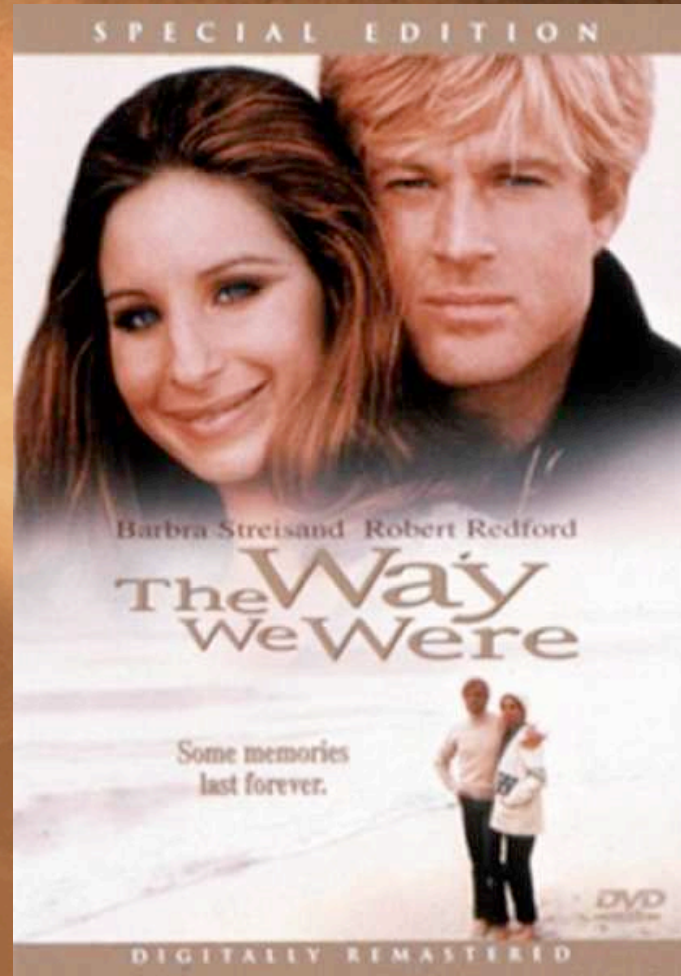


God's Glorious Grace

Ephesians 2:1-3

The Way We Were

The Way We Were



The Way We Were

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins 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 – among whom we too all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Ephesians

2:1-3 (ESV)

What Life Looks Like Without Christ

The way we all were without Christ and the way those without Christ still are now

- ❑ Life before 'the Great Change' takes place
- ❑ Does not show us someone 'out there,' but rather the person 'in here' without God
- ❑ Fallen humanity - i.e. the universal human condition

Characteristics of Life Without God

- Dead (vs. 1)

- Describes our spiritual, not our physical, state

In the area of life that matters most we are ‘dead even while alive’ (I Tim 5:6)

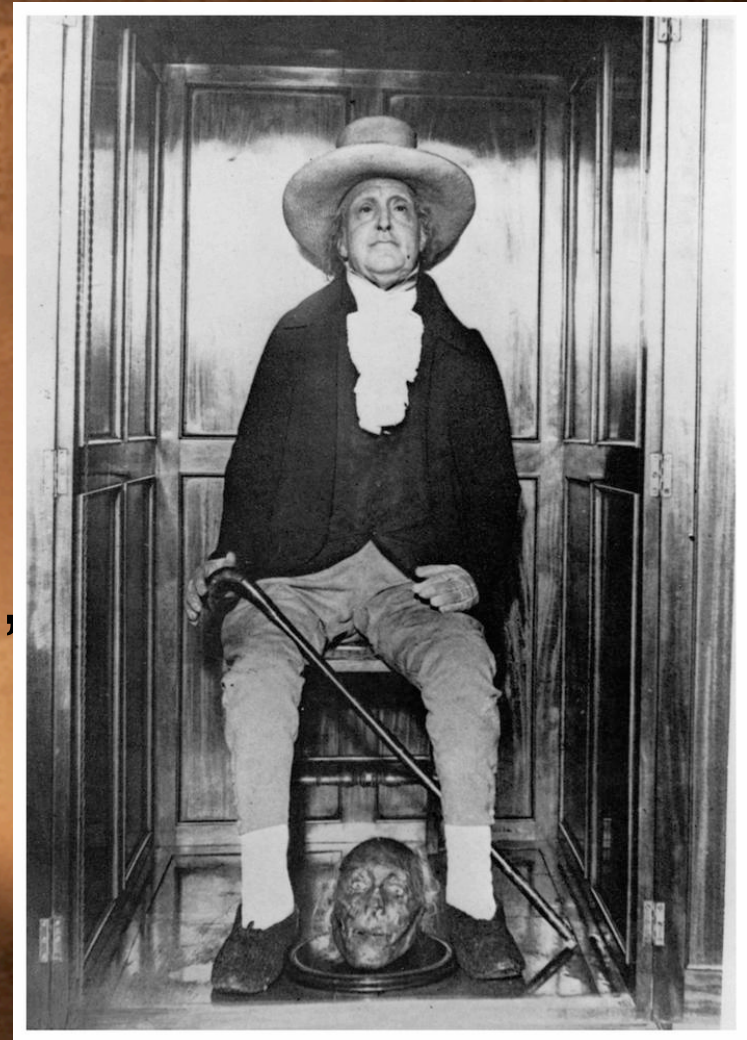
Characteristics of Life Without God

- Dead (vs. 1)

- Describes our spiritual, not our physical, state
- As unresponsive as a corpse...

Jeremy Bentham

‘present but not voting’



Characteristics of Life Without God

- Dead (vs. 1)

- Describes our spiritual, not our physical, state
- As unresponsive as a corpse....
- An inability, a failure to be and do what we ought to be and do:

Trespass = a false step, crossing the line

Sin = missing the target/mark

Characteristics of Life Without God

- Dead (vs. 1)
- Enslaved (vs. 2–3a)

A life lived in bondage to powerful, oppressive, and controlling forces...

You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature.

Characteristics of Life Without God

- Dead (vs. 1)
- Enslaved (vs. 2–3a)

A life lived in bondage to powerful, oppressive, and controlling forces...

*You used to live just like the rest of the **world**, full of sin, obeying **Satan**, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of **our evil nature**.*

Characteristics of Life Without God

- Dead (vs. 1)
- Enslaved (vs. 2–3a)
A life lived in bondage to powerful, oppressive, and controlling forces...
 - The world that shapes us
 - The devil who influences us
 - The sinful nature within that dominates us

Characteristics of Life Without God

- Dead (vs. 1)
- Enslaved (vs. 2–3a)
- Condemned (vs. 3b)

We were born with an evil nature, and we were under God's anger just like everyone else.

(NLT)

- We have an inborn 'bent' toward sin. As a result, we are declared guilty and justly determined to be deserving of punishment.

Characteristics of Life Without God

- Dead (vs. 1)
- Enslaved (vs. 2–3a)
- Condemned (vs. 3b)

This then is the ‘way we were’
without Christ...

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God ? But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

(I Cor 6:9-11)

Characteristics of Life Without God

- Dead (vs. 1)
- Enslaved (vs. 2–3a)
- Condemned (vs. 3b)

This then is the ‘way we were’
without Christ...

If we are without Christ then
this is ‘the way we are’
but need no longer be!