

The image features a bright yellow background. Two dark brown L-shaped brackets are positioned on the left and right sides. The left bracket starts at the top left and extends downwards and then rightwards. The right bracket starts at the top right and extends downwards and then leftwards. In the center, the text "GETTING READY FOR THE EASTER" is written in a bold, dark brown, sans-serif font, arranged in two lines.

GETTING READY
FOR THE EASTER



BAD NEWS / GOOD NEWS

Ephesians 2 & 4

In the Beginning

- Man was created by God
- Man was created in such a way that intimacy with God is essential to one's full enjoyment of life.

Houston, we have a problem?


- Rebellion
- Separation
- A blind quest

The Bad News

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.

Ephesians 2



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The Bad News

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Ephesians 2

The Impact

Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Ephesians 2:3b

The Good News

⁴ But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

So What. . .

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

So What

²⁰ You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. ²¹ Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4

Ultimate reality

- We are all spiritual
- The way that we view God and his grace has consequences that are beyond our imagination.

The Ultimate Reality of Easter

- God did not send his Son to make bad people better. Jesus came so that people who are dead might be made alive.
- To truly live we need to remember our chains.

To Go . . .

- How does the “bad news” make the ‘good news’ even better?
- Where would you be without grace?
- Why are we so clueless when it comes to understanding that the world, apart from Jesus, is “really” dead?