

Study 4  
**THE DILEMMA  
OF A FALLEN HUMANITY**

**our spiritual environment:**

(as those who are idolatrously God-refusing & rebellious)

**- the dominion of darkness**

(the oppressive realm of the world, the flesh & the devil)

hard-hearted refusal of our dear & awesome Maker, in foolish pursuit of false promise of life—inevitably locking us into:

**AN ENDLESS, RESTLESS STRUGGLE**

**\* the action of God's wrath (the holy anger of His love)**

giving us over to personally-disintegrating & despair-producing:

**GUILT**

to do with the CONSCIENCE—having to bear with a dark-spirited sense of **condemnation & shame**

*wrath-averting strategy: desperately seeking relief by blaming someone or something else, condemning others, performing better, changing the rules, denying the facts or self-punishment*

**INSECURITY**

to do with PERSONHOOD—having to bear with a dark-spirited sense of **lostness & inferiority**

*wrath-averting strategy: desperately seeking to gain personal & vocational significance (& 'dealing with the competition'?)*

to do with CIRCUMSTANCES—having to bear with a dark-spirited sense of **uneasiness & vulnerability**

*wrath-averting strategy: desperately seeking to gain physical, financial, material, relational, vocational & political security*

**FRUSTRATION**

to do with PERSONAL FULLNESS—having to bear with a dark-spirited sense of **deadness & futility**

*wrath-averting strategy: desperately seeking to secure each day a full & life-giving engagement in significant relationships & action, or just a perpetual feast of meaningless escape—but with an ever-lurking guilt-charged anger, vented or suppressed*

**FEAR OF DEATH**

to do with ETERNITY—having to bear with a dark-spirited sense of **dread & doom**

*wrath-averting strategy: desperately seeking to dismiss the fact of final judgment, through belief-systems, guilt-relief & 'life-now!'*