

Put on the New Man
Ephesians 4:20-32
Sunday a.m. 4/9/2017

- ❖ The previous verses said to not make bad choices **(4:17-19)**
 - ✚ An empty mind - devoid of truth; one bad choice after another
 - ✚ A darkened mind - The inability to make moral choices
 - ✚ A Godless mind – A life devoid of God
 - ✚ An ignorant mind - Refusal to acknowledge the presence of God
 - ✚ A calloused mind - Thoughts toward God have hardened

- ❖ Finally, they do not feel the pain of sin and surrender their mind **(4:19)**
 - ✚ They have no shame of sin
 - ✚ They pursue all impure motives and lust
 - ✚ They are never satisfied with the amount of sin

- ⊗ **Paul said they did not know what is wrong and what is right**
 - ✚ No one had told them not to lie
 - ✚ No one had told them when to be angry
 - ✚ No one had told them not to steal
 - ✚ No one had told them how to say the right things

■ **The Challenge of Truth (4:20-24)**

● **Hear the teaching of Christ (4:20-21)**

- ❖ Jesus is truth, truth is in Jesus
- ❖ He is the source of truth, what is true in any circumstance

- ❖ The church at Ephesus had heard the teaching of Christ from Paul
- ❖ We must increase our knowledge of the Bible

✓ **Listen to what Paul told young Timothy**

2 Timothy 3:10-16

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- ❖ The Word of God shows us how to live a Godly life
- ❖ The problem is that Christians stop desiring to change

- ✚ **There must be daily examination of our life**
- ✚ **Confession and repentance is a must**

- ✚ Paul says “to not grow weary in doing good” **(2 Thessalonians 3:13)**
- ✚ Paul says to “fight the good fight of faith” **(1 Timothy 6:12)**

- **Obey the teaching of Christ (4:22-24)**

- ✓ **Put off the old man(22)**

- ❖ The old life is deceitful, delusional and causes us to be deprived

Kent Hughes

“The problem is, the old garments are so comfortable and natural.”

- ✪ **We have worn them so long that we are not aware we are wearing them. Only the Holy Spirit can convict us of our comfortableness with sin.**

- ✓ **Change your way of thinking (23)**

- ❖ There must be an inward renewal

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- ✓ **Put on the new man (24)**

- ❖ This new man is based on the image of God
 - ✚ Righteousness is God’s acceptable standard
 - ✚ Holiness is truth that leads to life

■ **The Response to Truth (4:25:32)**

⊛ **Paul gives six negative things to stop and six positive changes to start**

• **Stop lying and start truthing (4:25)**

❖ Satan is a liar and the father of lies **(John 8:44)**

⊛ **We live in a world where lies are paid for**

✚ **60 Minutes did a story on “web bots”**

✚ **Web bots is a computer software that automatically searches the internet to increase the times a story is seen**

✚ **Bots were used in the past presidential election, on both sides, to spread intentional false stories about a candidate**

❖ You would probably say you do not lie, at least intentionally

✚ Do you exaggerate the truth?

✚ Do you lie to make yourself look better?

❖ You may say that your lie did not hurt anyone, but it did

⊛ **It hurt your reputation**

❖ Paul quotes **Zechariah 8:16a**

“These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor;”

❖ We need to tell the truth because we are members of each other

❖ Lying makes the body, the church dysfunctional

⊛ **How can we trust each other if we cannot believe each other**

❖ The evidence of Christ in our life is to stop lying and start truthing!

- **Be angry, but do not sin (4:26-27)**

- ❖ There are three words used for anger in the New Testament

parogigismos – anger accompanied by exasperation and bitterness

thumos – explosive anger that is soon over

- ❖ Both of these are sins that are forbidden (**Ephesians 4:26, 31**)

orge – anger aroused by righteous indignation

- ❖ Jesus cleared the Temple again on Monday of Passion Week (**Mark 11**)

- ❖ This is the anger Jesus had

- ✳ **Don't compare to Jesus unless you have righteous anger**

- ✳ **This is anger over a believer's sin, social sin or doctrinal error**

- ❖ This is a healthy anger, but it needs to end that day

- ✳ **Our anger over someone sin can lead to anger about that person**

- ❖ Even righteous anger can give Satan an opportunity for destruction

- **Stop stealing and get a job (4:28)**

Exodus 20:15 You shall not steal (8th commandment)

- ✳ **Our employment enables us to help those that are truly in need**

- **Stop worthless speech and use edifying speech (4:29)**

- ❖ Do not let rotten, worthless words come from your mouth

- ✚ Our speech should be grace to those that hear us

- ✚ Our speech should build others up

- ✚ Our speech should be a demonstration of the grace of God

- ❖ St. Augustine had these words hung in his home

“He who speaks evil of an absent man or woman is not welcome at this table.

Close

- ❖ The result of our sin is the grieving of the Holy Spirit **(4:30)**
 - ⊛ **We need to put bitterness, wrath (thumos), anger (ogre) that has no moral concern, clamor (anger that leads to fighting), slander and the desire to hurt people, out of our life**
- ❖ We need to replace these with kindness, tenderheartedness and forgiveness of others **(4:32)**
- ❖ Forgive as Christ forgave us
 - ⊛ **We think about His death and resurrection this week as we prepare for Easter**
 - ⊛ **There was no idea among His followers of a resurrection, much less the church**
 - ⊛ **Paul is reminding us to represent Christ who suffered and died for us**