

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

CHAPTER 4:17-19

TAPE # WN 234 ~ DATE: September 23, 1997

TITLE:

“Are You Really A Christian?”

SEATED IN THE HEAVENLIES IN CHRIST JESUS

SUB-TITLE:

“The Growing Up” of a Healthy Church

THEME:

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Someone has Aptly Stated that:

“there are times when you just can’t win for losing”

Meaning IN THE EYES OF MAN... There are Times when you cannot do anything right

Ephesians 4:17-19

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Ephesians Chapter 4:1-16
began with a call from the lips of apostle:

#1.) To walk the Christian walk - **in unity**

Psalm 133:1

Behold, (**Look**) how good and how pleasant it
is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

The Christian walk
is a walk that is to be obvious

And it becomes obvious when...

When Christianity Takes Feet?

I.) In Relation to Fellow Believers vv.1-6

“The Practice” of the Believer

THE PRACTICE OF “OTHERS” for Others

Ia.) We looked at the needs of the body

II.) In Relation to Spiritual Gifts vv.7-16

“The Practice” of the Believer

THE PRACTICE OF “THE GIFTS” for Others

REALIZING:

That Every Gift Given By The Holy Spirit
is Because... You and I have a Need

We Can Become “Unbalanced”
-it’s so easy to do

Galatians 5:13

You, my brothers, were called to be free.
But do not use your freedom to indulge your sinful nature;
rather, serve one another in love. (Selfishness)

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

The Christian walk is a walk that is to be obvious

IIb.) When we make ourselves available to others

(We're loving them like Jesus did!!!)

Mark 12:37

"Therefore.... the common people heard Him gladly.

John 15:12

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

JESUS practiced that very lifestyle of ministry

Ephesians 4:2

that with all lowliness and gentleness,
with longsuffering, **bearing** with one another in love,

Ephesians 4:3

endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

To the point of agonizing,
if that is what it's going to take...

“The Practice” of the Believer

THE PRACTICE OF BELIEVER Toward The World

Are You Really a Christian?

III.)

In Relation to Our Former Life

vv.17-32

Eph 4:17-19

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart;¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Don't walk like this

IIIa.) Having a Former Life *(have you been changed)*

Verse 17

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind

The Christian Has Been Ordained - in to a new life

Ephesians 4:1

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Colossians 1:9-10

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;¹⁰ that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

1 Thessalonians 2:12-13

that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.¹³ For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

* Futility GRK 3153 **mataiotes** (mat-ah-yot'-ace);
moral depravity, vanity.

* Mind GRK 3563 **nous** (nooce)
the intellect, in thought, feeling, or the will)

This New Life Awaits You

Before you were a Christian... You lived for you

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:11-14a

Therefore remember (OUR CONDITION) that you, once Gentiles in the flesh-- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (OUR NEW CONDITION) ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace...

Don't walk like this

*

Therefore GRK

By reason of all that has been mentioned

Like Peter - **2 Peter 1:12**

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

His Passion Was...

He didn't want them to go back to the world

The Pastor's Heart we can become so burdened for a lamb's life that we can be tormented just by the thought of that lamb turning back to the world....

I thought About the Feeling I gives me...

Imagine For a Moment Your Love Leaving You and Playing in the World

- You Know The Pain That Will Come To Them
- You Know That Their Lives Will Never Be The Same
- You Know That Their Thought Life Will Be Greatly Hindered
- You Know That Just Someone Else Touching Them or Pursuing Them is Fatal

Especially The Younger Christian

The Old Life Has its Temptations
we remember the fun, but not the downside of it

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the **pleasures of sin for a season;**

The Party World

There's a raveling that takes place

- “O’ wasn’t that the best ever !!!...”
- “We had the greatest time !!!...”
- “Man, you should have been there, it was great !!!”

New Birth Means New Life

IIIb.) Living Without God in the World (*have you been changed*)

Don't walk like this

Verse 18

having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart

Verse 18a

having their understanding darkened

*

Understanding

GRK 1271 dianoia (dee-an'-oy-ah);

deep thought, their imagination, or their meditative mind

*

Darkened

GRK 4656 skotoo (skot-o'-o);

to made obscure or blinded. to be made fully dark.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.²⁰

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things

which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Being Dead to the Spiritual Life....

....Sin Will Darken (obscure) your ability to judge correctly

Sin Will Hinder Your Ability to Think Clearly....

If you're Backslidden Tonight... And you're hearing this right now
Remember back to when Your Walk Was Once so Simple?

You decided back then to trust God no matter what.

You were bold and you had so much joy and peace...

& people thought you were a little over board about Jesus !!!

“Hey... You Love God a Little Bit to Much”

Return Tonight... to Your First Love

Verse 18b

being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart

* Being alienated GRK 526 **apallotrioo** (ap-al-lot-ree-o'-o);
to be a **non-participant**: being as a foreigner to God and His people

A Spectator - to the Things of God

Don't walk like this

Matthew 15:14

Jesus said of the Pharisees "Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

I John 5:11-13

11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ **These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and... that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.**

“How Can I Know For Sure?”

The Man on the street corner In Moscow Russia

Why?

Verse 18c

The Reason is Two-Fold

#1 - because of the ignorance that is in them,

#2 - because of the hardening of their heart

The Poros stone is harder than marble. as hard as hard can be

People Who Are Beyond Feeling are those who have become harder than stone
((They're not Child-like anymore))

Hardened by The World, by Pain, by Relationships

1 John 2:15-17

love not the world or **the things** in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶
For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father
but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides
forever.

The things

The things

The things

The things
The things

Don't walk like this

When someone's eyes are off Jesus

You can Hear them getting Hard to the Lord & Bible

IIIc.) Going After The World's Lust (*have you been changed*)

Verse 19

*who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness,
to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

They Have Become “Poros” ... as hard as stone...

Past Feeling

Verse 19a

*

Being past feeling GRK 524 **apalgeo** (ap-alg-eh'-o);
to become apathetic: to not care anymore

**To become apathetic:
To not care anymore**

1 Timothy 4:2b
having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

The scaring of the flesh hardens the nerve endings
making the flesh dead to feeling

Ezekiel 11:19-20

"Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, ²⁰ "that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

Colossians 2:10-12

and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. ¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Verse 19b

*have given themselves over to licentiousness,
to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

licentiousness GRK 766 **aselgeia** (as-eg'-i-a);
 hungering, longing desires of the flesh.

- Emotionally (soul escape - to fantasize)
- Mentally (mind escape - to)
- Physically (sexual escape)

But There is Always
Philippians 1:6 & Psalms 138:8