

Ephesians 4:17-24

17-18. 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 (vanity) of their mind**, having their understanding **darkened**, being **alienated form the life of God**, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening (**blindness**) of their heart:

Definition: "VANITY OF THEIR MINDS" - means emptiness and stupidity of their minds; **not thinking right**, not able to understand the things of God."

- **I Corinthians 2:14-15** "But the Natural man does not _____ (understand) the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he _____ them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges (discerns) all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one."
- **II Corinthians 4:3-4** "But our gospel is veiled (hidden, **in darkness**), it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose _____ the god of this age (Satan) has _____ , who do not believe, lest the _____ of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should _____ on them."
- **Proverbs 12:15** "The way of a _____ is _____ in his _____ , but he who heeds [*Godly*] counsel is _____ ."
- **Proverbs 16:25** "There is a way that _____ to a man, but its end is the way of _____ ."

Definition: "No longer WALK as the rest of the Gentiles" - Paul is speaking to born-again Christians here, the church at Ephesus, and telling them NOT to CONTINUE TO LIVE THEIR LIVES or BEHAVE like **non-Christians**. He especially tells them **NOT** to **THINK like unbelievers**.

- **Psalms 1:1** "Blessed is the man who _____ in the counsel of (taking advice from) the _____ , nor stands in the path of ("hangs out" with) _____ , nor sits in the seat of (has fellowship with) the SCORNFUL (those who ridicule and reject God)."
- **I Peter 4:3** "For we have spent **enough of our past** _____ in doing the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in _____ , _____ , _____ , _____ , _____ , and _____ ."
- **Ephesians 2:11-12** "Therefore remember, once _____ in the _____ who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands _____ that **at that time** you were _____ , being _____ from the commonwealth of Israel, and _____ from the covenants of promise, having NO HOPE and _____ in the world."

NOTE: The Unbeliever is in DARKNESS, but the Believer is **NOT in darkness**.

- **John 12:46** "I have come as a _____ into the world, that whoever _____ in Me should NOT abide in _____ ."
- **Ephesians 5:8** "For you were **once** _____ , but NOW you are _____ in the Lord. WALK as children of _____ ."
- **Colossians 1:12-13** "Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the _____ . He has _____ us from the power of _____ and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."

19. Who **being past feeling**, have given themselves over to **licentiousness**, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Definition: "WHO BEING PAST FEELING" - Without listening to their conscience; having no remorse; not being sorry for doing wrong.

Definition: "LICENTIOUSNESS" - means "lacking of deficient in discipline; without restraint, **LAWLESSNESS**; doing whatever feels good at the time." Do we see much of this in our society today? _____

- **Matthew 7:23** "And then I will declare to them, ' I NEVER KNEW YOU; depart from Me, **you who practice** _____ !' "
- **Genesis 6:5-8** "And God saw that the _____ of man was great in the Earth, and that every imagination of the _____ of his heart was only _____ **continually.**" (Verse 8) "But Noah found _____ in the eyes of the Lord."
- **Luke 17:26** "And as it was in the days of _____ , so it will be also in **the days of the Son of Man.**"

Definition: "DAYS OF THE SON OF MAN" - Also called "**The Last Days**," this refers to the time just before **the return of Christ** to the Earth. **Lawlessness** will be one of the "signs" of His soon return, and the condition of the human race **just before Jesus returns** will be as wicked and evil as it was before God destroyed the Earth with the Flood. Read also II Thessalonians 2:1-12 & II Timothy 3:1-13.

**Do you think we are getting close to that point now? _____

20-21. But **you have not so LEARNED Christ**; if so be that you have heard Him, and have been **TAUGHT by Him**, as the truth is in Jesus.

- **Matthew 11:29** "Take My yoke upon you and _____ from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find _____ for your _____ ."

**What does Jesus want us to do? LEARN from _____ .

- **Matthew 28:19-20** "Go therefore and make **disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, _____ them to **observe (OBEY)** all the things I have commanded you."

Definition: "DISCIPLE" - means a "**learner**". Have you become a DISCIPLE of Jesus Christ? YES _____ NO _____ Are you **allowing Him to teach you?** _____ Does **letting Jesus teach us** and **OBEYING HIM** differ from "giving ourselves over to licentiousness?" _____

- **John 8:31** "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him, "If you **abide (continue) in My** _____ ,then you are truly My _____ ."

According to this verse, **HOW do we learn from Jesus and REALLY become His True disciples? By _____ in His _____ .

22. That **YOU put off**, concerning your former conduct, **the OLD MAN**, which is CORRUPT according to its deceitful desires and lusts;

Definition: "THE OLD MAN" - Our sinful human nature; **habits** and **behavior patterns** learned BEFORE we were BORN AGAIN.

****WHO** put off the "old man," God or **we ourselves?** _____ God's word says that **WE as Believers** are the ones who have a **CHOICE** about the following the **old**

nature and its desires. If we **renew our minds** with the word of God, we will have the **will power** and strength from God to **choose the new nature** (the UNSAVED person does not even Have a new nature).

- **Read Colossians 3:1-10** (Verse 2) "Set your _____ on things above, not on the _____ ." (Verse 5) "Therefore put to _____ your members which are on the Earth; _____ , _____ , _____ , _____ , and _____ which is idolatry." (Verse 8-9) "But now YOU must _____ all these: _____ , _____ , _____ , blasphemy, _____ out of your mouth. Do not _____ to one another, since you have _____ the _____ with his deeds."
- **Romans 6:12-13** "**Do not _____ sin reign (have control)** in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its desires. And **do not _____ your _____** as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but **yield yourselves unto God**, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members (parts of your body) as instruments of righteousness unto God."
- **Galatians 6:7-8** "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that will he also reap. For **he who sows to his flesh** (the old nature, the "OLD MAN") will of the flesh reap _____ ; but he who sows to the _____ shall from the Spirit reap _____ ."

Definition: "SOWING and REAPING" - Sowing means planting seeds, and reaping means harvesting or gathering the crop that has grown from those seeds. For Christians, this means that we may still have to suffer the CONSEQUENCES of our sinful behavior, even though God has FORGIVEN us.

23-24. And **be RENEWED in the spirit of your MIND**; and that **YOU put on the NEW MAN**, which was **CREATED** according to God, in righteousness and true **HOLINESS**.

- **II Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is IN CHRIST, he is a new _____ ; old things are passed away, behold, all things have become new."
- **Colossians 3:10** "And have put on the _____ who is renewed (created) in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him."

God **CREATES the new nature (the "NEW MAN") in us when we are **BORN AGAIN** (our **spirits are MADE ALIVE**), when we receive Jesus as our Savior, but there is a daily conscious decision we must make to LET the NEW Nature and God's Spirit CONTROL US. **We must yield or surrender our bodies to God** every day, even moment by moment, and **give Him the right** to use us as His servants.

- **Romans 12:1-2** "I Beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, and YOU _____ **your _____** as a living sacrifice, _____ and acceptable to God, which is **your reasonable service**. And **be not conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the _____ **of your _____** that you may prove what is that god and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Definition: "RENEWED and "TRANSFORMED" - If we want to see positive changes in our lives, we **must renew our minds** by constantly reading the **word of God**. Otherwise, we will think, act and talk just like the rest of the **world**. As our **minds** are changed (our way of thinking), we will begin to see things as God sees them, and our outward behavior will change. We will "Walk in the Spirit and will not fulfill (carry out) the lusts of the flesh (the Old Man)." Galatians 5:16

****HOW** do we **RENEW OUR MINDS**? By abiding in God's _____ .

- **John 8:31** "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him, "If you _____
(continue) **in My** _____ , then you are truly My _____ ."