

Week 7, Ephesians: Chapter 4 Pt 2 (Vs 17-32)

V17 In one verse Paul _____ not only the purpose of the next 15 verses but also summarizes one of the main goals of the Christian Life.

Paul emphatically states, *with the Lord's authority*, that we _____ live the way that we used to, that is; the way that the unbelieving world does.

Paul says that the unbelieving world is hopelessly confused about what is really real, right & wrong etc. and that is why they live such _____ lives.

Paul infers that the believer is not _____ about the truth... and therefore has a _____ picture of reality and what is right.

Paul is _____ the believer to live in light of this reality... by _____ them to the unbelieving, foolish, darkened Gentiles.

V18 Paul says that the unbelieving world has a mind that is blinded to the _____ of God, _____ and wrong, sin and salvation.

The unbelieving world has wandered so far from God (ultimate reality) because of the _____ of their _____; namely because of their love of evil.

Again, Paul infers that the believer should not follow in the _____ of the unbelieving Gentiles because our minds are not full of darkness, rather they are full of _____!

Paul infers that the believer would be foolish to _____ the lifestyle of the unbeliever because our minds have been _____ and we have seen the truth.

V19 Because of their darkened understanding and hardened hearts the unbeliever has no sense of morality and they are only led by their _____, fleshly instincts.

We can clearly see how important it is for the unbeliever to know truth... for without truth there is no real or lasting _____ for _____ change.

We should actually feel sympathy for the unbeliever because they are hopelessly caught in a web of _____ and utterly carried away in a sea of _____.

It should be clear that the believer who has come to a knowledge of the truth, and whose mind has been freed from the web of lies, should no longer live as one who is _____ by _____ desires.

V21-22 Paul says that the believer has heard the truth, _____ through Christ, and their minds have been enlightened about the _____ of God, sin and salvation.

This _____ of the truth in the mind of the believer should lead them to action. And the appropriate _____ is to live in the light of the truth... and no longer in the shadows of the lies.

Paul would say that the greatest tragedy is not that there are people who live in darkness because they have no knowledge of the light... But rather the greatest tragedy is that there are people who have the knowledge of the light yet continue to live in darkness.

Paul says that this is not what we learned from Christ... we did not learn that we can continue to live as though there is no light... when the light walked among us.

V23-24 Paul _____ the believers to action and he says that they are to allow the Holy Spirit to _____ renew their thinking...

Paul knows that if the believer's actions are to reflect the light of the truth... their minds need to be saturated with truth. **The Holy Spirit's role is to remind** us of the truth, to **convict** us of the truth, to **guide** us into the truth, and to **empower** us to obey the truth...

Therefore a key to _____ in the Christian life and a key to success in not living the way the Gentiles do... is to _____ our minds on truth constantly.

And Paul says that the more and more we do this, the more and more we will be putting on our new nature, our _____ self, which is holy and _____.

Now Paul is about to get extremely practical.

He is going to list action after action that are to _____, because they reflect the **deceitfully darkened old self**. And, he is going to list action after action that are to _____ because they reflect the reality of **our new nature**.

For every old nature behavior that is to cease... Paul gives a new nature behavior that is to commence. And what Paul is saying is that there is **no neutrality**. Every thought, attitude & action is either reflecting our old nature or our new nature.

Either, every thought, attitude & action is lived in the light of the reality of God-Sin-Christ- The Cross-Salvation- Eternity... Or every thought, attitude & action is lived in the darkness of the deception of The World-Sin-Self- Satan- Desire-Pleasure-Temporary

V25-32 Paul lists **more** and **more** behaviors that should **cease** and **commence** in the life of the believer.

For our time today, what is important is not the specific actions that should cease and commence... rather the _____ why.

Paul's list is not exhaustive. There are tens and tens, and even hundreds of other behaviors that he could have listed. This is just a sampling.

The main idea is that as believers, our minds have been opened. We have seen the truth and we have understand the _____ of sin & death, Christ & eternity...

Our behavior then, in any and all spheres should _____ that reality in all that we do.

In no way should we be content to have our behavior reflect the lost and dying world who are still living in the darkness of lies.

The main objective then for us is to get our mind fixed on the truth of the eternal spiritual reality of this world and of our lives. Because it can be very easy for the physical surroundings of the world around us to become ultimate reality to us.

We should constantly be asking ourselves...

1. Is what I am about to do reflecting the reality of God or is it actually displaying a denial of the reality of God?
2. Is what I am about to do reflecting the reality that I have been redeemed by the blood of Christ and that I am now God's holy possession who will live forever with him? Or is what I am about to do reflecting the lie that this life is all there is, there is no God and I exist unto self?

By passing all of our actions through these two filtering questions, we will have a great guide for no longer living the way that they Gentiles do.