



**Review:**

Job of Pastor

Thoroughly equip us to minister to the body (Stephen’s Ministers)

Goal: build a oneness or unanimousness in the faith. Group up into Christ as His body into His Head.

**Verse 17:**

**Insist/affirm GK:** is very emphatic!!!

“**in the Lord**” **GK** structure: Paul is seen “identifying himself with Christ and giving the exhortation as one made by Christ Himself. Carries a lot of force and weight!!!

“**no longer live**” **GK:** Extension of time up to a point, but **NO LONGER**.

How do Gentiles live? Romans 1:18-23; 28-32 Read (Example: A watch requires a watchmaker)

**Futility GK:** Uselessness, resultless, aimless. Opposite is usefulness, beneficial. The word speaks of “lack of attainment”. Ever do a lot of stuff in one day, but not accomplish anything that needed done?

From **GK** word for “no purpose” “grasping of wind” “building a house on sand”.

**Thinking: GK:** particular manner/way of thinking, attitude.’ *faculty for recognizing moral good and spiritual truth*. Expositors says: “It is a description of the walk of the heathen world moving within the limits of intellectual & moral **resultlessness**, given over to things devoid of worth or reality.” **RELATIVISM!** Today

Paul says: **No longer live** -- Implies they were living like (or thinking about living like) Gentiles to some degree. Doesn’t mean you will not sin. **I John 1:6-8** discuss nature of sin. We daily choose to **live for Christ**. Our lives should produce fruit of the Spirit as per Gal 5:22. **What is your life producing?**

Gal 2:20 Crucified w/ Christ
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**Verse 18:**

**Darkened** (GK: to become unable to perceive and thus unable to understand)

**in understanding** (GK: faculty of understanding, reasoning, thinking, & deciding) Perfect Participle (process completed in past w/ present results.) (The past is continually clouding their present life.)

**Example:** Lights needed 2 see. Did you ever wake up in the middle of the night trying to find something in the dark? Can’t see clearly, perceive anything or even think! Same w/ those whose brains have no spiritual light. Paul uses this word to speak to the “blinding of the mind by sin”. **NOT WILLING** to turn on the light!

**Separated/Alienated GK:** estranged, cut off from fellowship and intimacy with “true life”.

Person with medical condition. Doctor prescribes what to take for health. Patient refuses desires something else.

**Because of ignorance GK:** Leads 2 mistaken conduct. Forbids unconditional “I did it” guilt 4 acts performed **Romans 2:5** Stubborn hearts – moral unresponsiveness.

We wonder how a person can become so “evil”, uncaring, untouched by results of their actions to others?

**AMP:** v18 Their moral understanding is darkened *and* their reasoning is beclouded. [They are] alienated (estranged, self-banished) from the life of God [with no share in it; this is] because of the ignorance (the want of knowledge and perception, the willful blindness) that is deep-seated in them, due to their hardness of heart [to the insensitiveness of their moral nature]. **The more 1 choose to sin, farther they move from God.**

**Verse 19:**

Hard skin on foot or hand – Poke with a pin and one doesn’t feel anything. !

**lost all sensitivity** (callous NASB) **GK:** “to cease to feel pain or grief”

Ever encounter a person who speaks w/o thinking? They don’t care what they say to anybody?

Even with us, choosing a continual dwelling in sin can make us “callous” to Spirit’s leading.

**Given themselves over** **GK:** to betray, to hand over, give one’s self up, present one’s self. “Sell soul to devil”

**Indulge GK:** one who acknowledges **no restraints** -- like an addict who can’t let go!

Samson in OT. Weakness for foreign women. We know how that handicapped and limited his ministry.

Sin is very addicting. Remember the commercial about Lays potato chips? Nobody can eat just one?

Ephesians 4:17 – 27

Sin calls out to people. Sin entices people. Just take a little nibble here or let yourself be tickled there a little bit. **Hebrews 11:24-27** Moses' view of sin "SAKE OF CHRIST Disgrace – What do we choose? Christ or World? Egypt is symbolic of "the world" **James 4:4** "friendship w/ the world creates enmity (active opposition) w/ God. **II Tim 3:1-5 Read...** Contrast with I John 4:4

**AMP:** In their spiritual apathy they have become callous *and* past feeling *and* reckless and have abandoned themselves [a prey] to unbridled sensuality, eager *and* greedy to indulge in every form of impurity [that their depraved desires may suggest and demand].

**Verse 20:** ...HUGE CONTRAST... like a Bible BUT!

**You** is emphatic in GK

**Learn/Know** GK: acquire information as the result of instruction, whether in an informal or formal context

*Actual GK word order:* **But as for you, not thus did you learn the Christ.** *Aorist tense* speaks to def time.

IE: when you accepted Christ, you learned to live differently than the world. REPENTED

Repent means to do a **180 turn!** We are different now. II Cor 5:17 New Creation in Christ. Regenerated heart.

**Verse: 21**

**in Him** not by or about Him. **GK:** in Him you were instructed.

The underlying idea is that of **union with Christ**. Its in fellowship with Christ that people learn how to live.

The Worldly don't have fellowship with Jesus so they have no clue how to live.

Use of Jesus's name rather than Christ suggests Paul's referral to the embodiment of truth in **Jesus'** Earthly life.

People who personally witnessed how Jesus lived share that with the people. We are to live as He did on Earth!

Truth in Jesus. What is that truth?

**Diabetic** – pre and post conversion – Make a break with past!  
**Heart Disease** – Change eating and exercise  
**Ulcers** – Adjust lifestyle to reduce stress.

**Verse: 22**

Former way of life  Col 3:1-5a

**Put off the old self – being corrupted by deceitful desires.** **Romans 7:15-25** Paul's experience with sin.

**Put off** is a figure taken from the removing garments. You're in a hot building, take off winter coat! **GK:** to cease doing what one is accustomed to doing. IE: former way of living.

**Old** GK: in the sense of worn out, decrepit, useless (Pre-conversion way of life is decrepit & useless)

Put off old self because we are a New Creation in Christ **II Cor 5:17**

If a poor person is adopted by a rich family, is the poor person expected to continue living as if poor or well off?

**How would adoptive** parents feel if their adopted child continued to live as before?

Eph 1 said we were adopted as sons and daughters of God in his own household. Eph 2:19 too.

**Verse: 23**

**Made new in the attitude of your minds** GK "renewed": renovated by inward reformation. **Present tense**

**Middle Voice.** Continuous ongoing action. Middle you do **actions** that **affect you**, not others.

Cause something to become new and different, with the implication of becoming **superior** after **renovation**.

Attitude of our minds: Roman 12:1-2

How do we **RENOVATE** our minds?

– Phil 4:8 our minds and thinking process.

- What are you filling your mind with? Secular or Christian music?
- TV shows featuring sinful blatant behavior?
- What do you read?

Ephesians 4:17 – 27

**Verse: 24**

**Put On GK:** like putting on clothing.

We don't walk around naked but fully clothe ourselves. We need fully clothed with our new nature.

Have a new nature created to be like God in true **righteousness** and **holiness** (set apart)

**I Peter 1:13 – 16. Alert GK:** Fully prepared for action. Organized and ready to roll ((Aorist Middle Voice))

**Self-controlled/Sober GK:** in control of one's thought processes and thus not be in danger of irrational thinking

Contrast with unrighteous behavior of the world with a continual lust for more.

**Revelation 19:8** Clean line – white – righteousness “Right Living”

**Verse: 25**

**Put Off** in GK: vs Put Off in verse 24.

**Falsehood GK:** content of a false utterance

What your doing is OK  
Better than what So and  
So is doing! **Relativism**

**Adultery**-spouse doesn't meet my needs  
**Stressful Job**- drink 2 survive the stress.  
**Homosexual**- we love each other. God is love. Why shouldn't two humans who love be able to marry?

**Speak Truthfully** Eph 4:15 truth in love. Contrast w/ God's Standard 4 our living vs comparison 2 others.

**Verse: 26**

Anger -> sin.

Does this verse say, “Do not be angry because it is sin?”

- Jesus drove out the money changers with a whip.
- Abortion – Anger – Responses: Support Pro Life organizations & women & Adoptive groups  
Bomb abortion clinics

Paul's action in Prison. Did he get angry for being wrongly accused? Sang songs of praise leading to salvation

Is “anger” in itself sin? NO... they why worry about it?

Sun go down: Anger like mourning. Mourning is natural in certain circumstances. What happens if one allows mourning to go on for months or even years? Affects our physical and mental health along with spiritual too.

Dangers sustained ANGER..... We are going to answer that question next week!

**YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THAT!!!**

**Verse: 27**

**Do Not Give GK** construction in Greek forbids the continuance of an action already going on. It is literally, “and stop giving place” to the devil!

Give the devil a foothold

**Foothold/Place GK:** topos (τοπος), “any portion of an area marked off from the surrounding territory.” Here it is used in the sense of “opportunity, power, occasion for acting” When you give the devil **any** place in your life, you are **giving him** “**opportunity, power,** and an occasion for acting out in your life.

WWII Allies landed on Normandy Beaches. They barely had a foothold. They hung on and the rest is history.

The devil desires to get a foothold in your life. I Peter 5:8-10 roaring lion – devour – GK: drink down

The more we give in or open the door for devil, the more control of our lives we cede to him.

Snow shoveling after HUGE snow fall. We work to clear an area or foothold. **Gives me confidence** to know I have a start! Encourages me to keep on shoveling! **Giving** the devil a **foothold encourages him** and his helpers.

## Ephesians 4:17 – 27

### Applications to Us:

1. What are some **potential footholds** you are allowing the devil to have in your life?
  - a. May seem very innocent.
  - b. Things you do, media you view, stuff you listen to?
  
2. How is the **renovation process** of your mind coming along?
  - a. What do you allow to enter your mind?
  - b. Gal 2:20?
  
3. How often does the sun go down on your anger? Does anger rule from day to day? Next time we will example the dangers of anger to ourselves! You don't want to miss that!