

EPHESIANS 4:17-32

REVIEW...

- **THE SECOND HALF OF THE BOOK...**
 - Having finished chapters 1-3 - the doctrine of the blessings we have in Jesus Christ...
 - We moved on to chapter 4-6 - the practical duty we have in following Jesus Christ...
 - Knowledge is not enough - we need to put into practice the things we learn...
 - The key word for the last 3 chapters is 'walk'...
- **Ephesians 4:1-16** - Walk worthy of the calling...
 - In light of all that God has given to us - we should walk worthy of our calling...
 - God gave gifts to help us in our walk - apostles / prophets / evangelists / pastors-teachers
 - Everyone one of us has been given at least one of these gifts...
 - The purpose of the gifts is to equip the saints to be able to serve the Lord...
 - And to mature the believers so they are not longer tossed about in their walk!
 - Not only are we to walk worthy of our calling - we are not to walk like those in the world...

DO NOT WALK LIKE THOSE IN THE WORLD... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - THE WALK OF THE WORLD... vs. 17-19**
 - Do not walk like those in the world - they are confused... vs. 17
 - People who do not know Jesus have no idea what life all about is...
 - The world can ask the question 'what is the meaning of life' - but has no answer...
 - They hold that we are an accident of evolution - live - then die and cease to exist!
 - In fact there is a famous British comedy that said that answer is '42'...
 - Why 42 - a joke - because without God there is no answer to the question!
 - They just exist from day to day - with no idea why they are alive!
 - And if we are listening to - hanging out with - looking to those in the world...
 - If we choose to follow them - then we are going to be as confused as they are!
 - These people we are looking to follow - are not even going to heaven...
 - Idolaters/fornicators/adulterers/homosexuals - sexual immoral...
 - Thieves/covetous - those who are always looking for more money - more stuff...
 - Drunkards/abusers/swindlers - those whose lives are out of control...
 - They need to receive the wisdom of Christ from us - not us from them!
 - They are Confused because - their minds are full of darkness... vs. 18
 - The reason is because they reject the light that comes from knowing God...
 - In order to see where we are going - we need to have light...
 - If we refuse to turn on the light - then we are left to wander in darkness...
 - **John 8:12** - "I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."
 - If we believe in Jesus, the answer to the meaning of life is simple...
 - We were created to have a relationship with God - **John 17:3**...
 - And God gave us this life to choose - decide about our eternity...

- But those who reject Jesus refuse that light - and are left to wander in darkness!
- The reason they reject the light is because their hearts are calloused...
 - When I first learned guitar - my fingers bled from pressing on the steel strings...
 - But eventually with lots of use - they grew calluses and became tough...
 - When we first commit a sin - we bleed with conviction from the Holy Spirit...
 - But if we continue to sin - we can create a callous on our hearts - feel nothing...
 - **Hebrews 3:13** - "Exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."
 - Sin is devastating - if we refuse to repent of our sin - it will harden our hearts...
 - We end up rejecting God - because we prefer to live on in our sin!
- o As a result they have no shame... vs. 19
 - Those who are calloused - no longer feel any conviction from God...
 - They seek to please themselves sexually - given over to unbridled lust...
 - They seek to gain as much money as they possibly can - full of greed...
 - Because when it is over - there is nothing - we cease to exist...
 - There is no right - there is no wrong / there is no heaven - there is no hell...
 - So we mind as well live it up - eat / drink / and have all the fun we can!
 - But they are wrong - and there is a day of judgment coming...
 - They are storing up wrath for the day when they will stand before Jesus...
 - And because they chose to look away - spend eternity separated from God in hell!
- **2ND - WHAT WE LEARNED FROM JESUS... vs. 20-24**
 - o Listen to Jesus... vs. 20-22
 - How do we hear Jesus - through His Word...
 - He teaches us to throw off the old - corrupt ways - which we used to live by...
 - There are only two option how to live our lives - walk like the world / or like Jesus!
 - **Romans 12:2** - "Do not be conformed to this world..."
 - This world does all it can to convince us it has everything we need to be happy...
 - All we need is more money / better job / more possessions / a different relationship
 - Everywhere we look we see the standards of the world – TV / radio...
 - One must ask the question – if that is true we should be able to see it...
 - If the answer truly was in the world – then we should be able to see examples...
 - If we look to those who have 'worldly success' are they content / full of joy...
 - When we chase after the things of this world – conform – it brings momentary bliss
 - It is a shallow fulfillment though – every bought something new - does not last...
 - Solomon put it best – it is like grasping for the wind - **Ecclesiastes 2:10-11**...
 - It is not a matter of striving for the impossible – you are reaching for nothing!
 - It is an empty – pointless life - it only leads you from one dry well to another!
 - o Therefore, instead let the Spirit give us a new attitude... vs. 23-24
 - Both the throwing off the old ways - and getting a new attitude - 'passive voice'...
 - Meaning something causes us throw off the old and receive the new...
 - As we realize that the world has no answers to life - only empty promises...
 - And as we get into the Word - and grow in our relationship with Jesus...
 - We will find the Spirit changes our heart - gives us a new outlook...

- No longer living for the pleasure of the moment - but living with an eternal view!
- The results is we have a 'new attitude' - we are a 'new man'...
 - With a new character formed by God - no longer living in the sin of this world...
 - A holy character - set apart from this world - ready to be used by God...
 - Our old man – our old sinful nature – was crucified and buried with Jesus...
 - We were then 'raised from the dead' – no longer the old sinful man we once were
 - We were given 'new life' – freed from sin to live for God!
 - **II Corinthians 5:17** – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
- **3RD - THE WALK OF THE NEW MAN IN CHRIST ... vs. 25-32 (5 THINGS)**
 - 1st - Do not lie - tell the truth to each other... vs. 25
 - There are no levels of lies - no little lies / or white lies / or half-truths...
 - There is just the truth - and then there is a lie - no middle ground...
 - If we are not telling all of the truth - then we are telling a complete lie!
 - Is there ever a good reason not to tell the truth...
 - Such as if it keeps someone from having hurt feelings – ‘how do I look’ – ugly!
 - End does not justify the means – its as much about the journey as the destination
 - There is never a good reason to lie – it is depending on our efforts / wisdom...
 - Better to be honest – tell the truth – and trust in/depend on the Lord!
 - We are to always tell the truth - because we are part of the same body...
 - Imagine if you told you foot to walk - it said OK but it lied - and instead stood still...
 - The whole body would end up falling down - because one member lied...
 - We are all one family - we all belong to the Body of Christ - church of God...
 - A pastor lying about taking money - does not just affect one man - hurts many...
 - Therefore we should not lie - be dishonest with each other...
 - 2nd - Do not be ruled by your anger... vs. 26-27
 - Because uncontrolled anger - leads to bitterness / hate...
 - Jesus is said in **Matthew 5:21** - to have hate for someone is equivalent to murder!
 - **Matthew 5:22** - “If you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!”
 - Will be in danger of THE Judgment - before the White Throne of God...
 - Because if we are not willing to forgive - God will not forgive us - **Matthew 6:15**
 - If you are angry with someone - deal with it before the sunsets...
 - Talk to the person you are upset with - before your anger turns to bitterness...
 - That bitterness becomes hatred - and that hatred begins to control your life!
 - We might even find we misunderstood something that was done or said...
 - Simply talking the time to talk to the person resolves the problem...
 - Or if there is sin and they repent - then their is forgiveness - **I John 1:9**
 - If we try and 'ignore' the problem - we give an opportunity to satan...
 - Satan would love to cause division within the church - bitterness and hate...
 - **II Corinthians 2:11** - “lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”
 - Do not let satan rob the church of the forgiveness and joy Jesus has provided...

- If you are upset / angry with someone - go / now / today and talk to them!
- o 3rd - Do not steal - instead give to those in need... vs. 28
 - Literally - stop taking things from other that do not belong to you...
 - We can call it anything we like - borrowing without asking / 'hulam lang ko no'
 - We can justify it any way we like - they already have a lot / they will not miss it...
 - Everybody may do it - owner may be more embarrassed than the one who took it...
 - If it is not ours - we have no right to take it - it is stealing - stop it!
 - Instead work so you can afford to give to others...
 - **Acts 20:35** – “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
 - Giving shows we are more concerned about others than ourselves...
 - Giving shows we are more concerned about the eternal - than the temporary...
 - And when we give - we will find we end up with more anyways!
 - **Luke 6:38** – “If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running...”
- o 4th - Do not use harsh speech - grieving the Holy Spirit... vs. 29-30
 - We need to be very careful what comes out of our mouth...
 - **James 3:5** – “The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do...”
 - When we choose to pass on the latest juicy stories - gossip...
 - When we use sarcasm - trying to be funny - but instead cutting those we love...
 - When we blurt out things in anger - things we wish we had not said...
 - When we tell 'green jokes' - sexual humor to try and get a laugh...
 - When we curse - swear words / or using the name of God in vain...
 - We need to be very careful what we say - the hurtful words we speak...
 - You have heard the old saying - 'if you have nothing good to say - say nothing'...
 - Because we will have to answer one day for every idle word - **Matthew 12:36**
 - The result of which is to grieve the Holy Spirit...
 - Have you ever been listening to a conversation - when it turns offensive...
 - You suddenly become uncomfortable - you want to quickly get away...
 - If we are not careful with our words - we can offend the Holy Spirit...
 - Making Him 'uncomfortable' - so that He does not want to be around us!
 - Instead use your words to do good...
 - Say those things that will bless others - give grace to those who listen...
 - In other words - let the Word of God be what flows from your lips!
 - The way to do that is to make sure you are 'full of the Word of God'...
 - **Luke 6:45** - “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”
- o 5th - Do not be bitter or angry - instead be kind and forgiving... vs. 31
 - When we are hurt by someone - and refuse to forgive - it plants a seed in our heart...
 - Can quickly grow into bitterness - we become consumed with what 'they did to us'!
 - Its roots can grow down deep - poisoning and hardening - separating us from God...
 - The 'fruit' in our life makes us sour and bitter - eventually brings spiritual death...
 - With un-forgiveness in our hearts - God does not hear our prayers - **Mark 11:25**
 - The only solution - look to Jesus - He can remove our un-forgiveness!
 - Jesus went to the cross to pay for our sins - ALL of our sins...
 - How then could we not forgive someone for the little sin they have done against us...

- Forgiveness is not just for the one who did us wrong - it is also for us...
- It sets us free - we do not dwell on the past - we get to move forward in Jesus!