

Put on Christ **Ephesians 4:17-24**

Chapter 1-3 our position in Christ w/ all its' privileges & **Riches**--chapter 4-6 our walk our duty & responsibility as citizens of heaven--those chosen by God & called into the family of God.

17 This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

This I say has us consider our new life & walking worthy of our position & privileges/**riches** of Ch 1-3 Don't walk or imitate the old life or follow the lifestyles of the unsaved. *Affirm together*-to call a witness, to testify in the Lords behalf. Salvation began w/ repentance, a change of mind & coming to Christ as Lord & Savior. *Gentiles*--the unsaved world walks in *futility of mind-hopelessly confused*—emptiness, unreality, instability or false religion A life w/o direction or aim in things of God-**worthless**.

Wolds focus is on temporal things not **eternal** *what shall we eat, drink, wear*
Matt 6:31-all the while putting God out of their minds. Solomon had it all **3g's yet**
Ecc 1:2 *"Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity."*
3 What advantage does man have in all his work Which he does under the sun?

J Vernon McGee "futility of mind means the empty illusion of the life that thinks there is satisfaction in sin. Oh, how many people walk that way! I feel so sorry for these young people who have been taken in by the promoters of immorality as a life-style.

Jonah 2:8 *They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.*

18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

Darkened—the condition of moral and spiritual blindness **Matt 6:22-24** *"The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be cling to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*

*Because of ignorance in them-**agnoia*** willful blindness, inexcusable condition-Believes God is unknowable—willful lack of knowledge

Put on Christ

Ephesians 4:17-24

2Thes 2:8-12 *And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.*

Hardness of heart—*porosis* a kind of marble—later as callus formed on broken bone making it harder than bone. Originally *petrify*, turn to stone—a person w/o feeling, insensitive, numb, unable to perceive—deadness—**Nabal**

Heart 800 x's in bible--the inner self, center of our being, our capacity of moral & spiritual decisions that determine who we really are. The fountain & seat of thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes—inner man. *As a man thinks in his heart so is he.*

This effect of a darkened heart comes from outside—God's judgment that follows rejecting natural revelation of God Himself—Evolution, Abortion, Gender Dysphoria, etc. All thinking contrary to divine revelation existing all around us. **Romans 1:18-22**

19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

Callus, lost all sensitivity, beyond feeling, no sense of shame—cease feeling pain, stop caring, become apathetic, reckless, Notice a darkened heart becomes a hardened heart which turns to a dead heart w/o feeling then a reckless heart sinning w/o limits.

Sensuality licentiousness, wantonness—unbridled lust, outrageous conduct shocking to public decency, lewdness which rejects restraint

Impurity w/ greediness – physically or morally unclean—a deliberate action every kind of impurity. Greediness of gain includes all types of self-seeking.

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How does this happen? Their conscience becomes "atrophied" sin no longer registers in their heart! They gave themselves over to sensual stimuli & now practice (**occupation, work hard at**) their immorality & are past feeling shame or guilt. **F F Bruce** calls it "vice that throws off all restraint and flaunts itself." Sensuality does not satisfy, but only creates a greater appetite

Ephesus, a veritable moral cesspool in Paul's day – The [Temple of Artemis](#) was the center of much of the wickedness. Like those in most pagan religions, its rituals & practices were but extensions of man's vilest & most perverted sins. Male & female roles were interchanged, & orgiastic sex, homosexuality, & every other sexual perversion were common. Artemis was herself a sex goddess, represented by an ugly, repulsive black female idol that looked something like a cross between a cow & a wolf. She was served by thousands of temple prostitutes, eunuchs, singers, dancers, & priests & priestesses. Idols of Artemis & other deities were to be seen everywhere, in every size & made out of many different materials. Of special popularity were silver idols & religious artifacts. It was because Paul's preaching cut deeply into that trade that the Ephesian silversmiths rallied the populace against him & his fellow believers ([Acts 19:24–28+](#)). The temple of Artemis contained one of the richest art collections then in existence. It was also used as a bank, because most people feared stealing from w/in its walls lest they incur the wrath of the goddess or other deities. A quarter mile-wide perimeter served as an asylum for criminals, who were safe from apprehension & punishment as long as they remained w/in the temple confines. For obvious reasons, the presence of hundreds of hardened criminals added still further to Ephesus's corruption & vice. The fifth-century B.C. Greek philosopher [Heraclitus](#), himself a pagan, referred to Ephesus as "the darkness of vileness. The morals were lower than animals & the inhabitants of Ephesus were fit only to be drowned." There is no reason to believe that the situation had changed much by Paul's day. If anything, it may have been worse. The church at Ephesus was a small island of despised people in a giant cesspool of wickedness. Most of the believers had themselves once been a part of that paganism. They frequently passed by places where they once caroused & ran into friends w/ whom they once indulged in debauchery. They faced continual temptations to revert to the old ways, & the apostle therefore admonished them to resist.

20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus

Paul goes back to our salvation experience. Our initial coming to the Lord and learning of Him & how He wants us to be, our personal relationship at our conversion-learning & walking w/ Him in fellowship. ***Ps 143:5 I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Thy doings; I muse on the work of Thy hands.***

Put on Christ

Ephesians 4:17-24

We *hear* & are *taught* of Him thru the scriptures they are the revelation of who God is. Come, take my yoke upon you & learn of Me **Matt 11:28**... Jesus to Pharisees *You search scriptures....won't come to Me-I've read the bible?*

22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Old life, old man lay aside, put away as a dirty garment—and put on Christ, your new life, new man/woman **Rom 6** also **Eph 2:4-6** We are new people in Christ Jesus **2Cor 5:17** *NKJ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Lazarus Jn 11 raised out of tomb--*loose grave clothes*. We no longer belong to the old life of sin & death—*loose-throw away grave clothes of old life*. We now belong to a new creation in Christ our new life after the spirit.

Always see yourself in Christ never apart from Him. This directs our thinking & actions . *Rom 12:1,2 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

We are changed/transformed by the renewing of our minds. Jesus said *Jn17:17 sanctify them in truth Thy word is truth* We are what we dwell on, what we think about *Pr 23:7 As a man thinks in his heart so is he*

Phil 4:8,9 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.