“Ephesians – God’s Plan For Every Believer”

Chapter 4:17-24

“Walk” refers to one’s way of life

It’s a sign one is living

Every believer should be distinctly different from those who aren’t Christians

You and I should stick out in society

It should be evident that we’re not like everyone else

Paul goes on to outline various characteristics of ungodly people which ought not to exemplify anyone who is a Christian

Why is an unbeliever’s mind futile?

Isn’t this an overly harsh assessment by Paul?

Unbelievers are not automatically unintelligent people

“The thought is not that unregenerate minds are empty. It is that they are filled with things that lead to nothing.” (Vaughan)

One can have earthly intelligence but not eternal intelligence

Such individuals are living in the dark because they have sidelined God to insignificance

The New Testament refers to God as being light (1 John 1:5)

 2

Jesus is also called the light of the world (John 8:12)

The Holy Spirit of God enlightens people to what is true (Hebrews 6:4)

Without acknowledging the one triune God, no one can truly know where they came from, why they’re here or where they’re ultimately going

An unbeliever’s willful ignorance and spiritual blindless causes them to be unable to grasp life’s most important realities

The apostle Paul makes reference to this in Romans 1:18-25

When anyone is locked into a godless frame of mind, it will inevitably lead to the disintegration of moral behaviour in their life

To be past feeling indicates one is unaffected by what should normally, immediately catch their attention

Paul is referring here to unbelievers who have no shame, living for lustful pleasure, as they eagerly pursue and then practice what is impure, immoral behaviour

Let’s go back to Romans 1:26-32

The point is none of these ungodly traits should consistently characterize a person who is a believer in Christ

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and Galatians 5:19-23 further substantiate this

 3

One cannot be connected to Christ and remain the same

Learning about Christ’s life, hearing His words of truth from Scripture and the godly instruction He gave will most certainly lead anyone who believes and follows Him in another direction than living one’s life like how Paul describes unbelievers in verses 17 through 19

We’re to put off the old self and put on the new self

Paul uses the analogy here of removing unfit, smelly, stained clothes

Those kind of clothes represent the person you used to be and the corrupt way you were living, succumbing easily to deceitful lusts, i.e. pleasures which appear to be harmless but have inevitable, negative consequences

To put on the new self requires intentionality on our part

Believers must seek to be renewed in the spirit of their mind

Christianity is not meant to be a casual, partial renovation project but rather a total transformation experience

How can we accomplish this?

I wrote this poem a long time ago around this important theme

 4

Lord, Renew My Mind

Lord, renew my mind.

Lord, renew my mind.

I want You to Find

A heart that’s true,

That pleases You.

Lord, renew my mind.

Lord, in this world filled with sin,

It’s so hard to remain pure within.

There’s so much to turn me away

From living for You each day

Lord, help me recognize

Sin’s deceitful disguise

Sometimes, what is wrong looks so good,

I don’t resist it like I know I should.

Lord, I want others to see in me

A life lived as holy as it ought to be.

But I can’t reach this goal if I do not

Make You Lord of every thought.

 5

Lord, set my mind on things above,

Thoughts of faith, peace, hope, and love.

As I hide your Word within my heart.

Make it holy, every part.

Lord, renew my mind.

Lord, renew my mind.

I want You to find

A heart that’s true,

That pleases You.

Lord, renew my mind.

If we are going to live in true righteousness and holiness as a new creature in Christ we must saturate our minds with Scripture, immerse ourselves in prayer, participate incessantly in thanks and praise