

No more living in the past

Ephesians 4:17-24

Introduction:

Do you find yourself living in the past or find that your mind keeps drifting back to your childhood or a different time or place in your life and wish it could be like that again? Today we are going to look at why we cant always look or live in the past.

Scripture:

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Key Points:

1. What does it mean to live in the past?
2. What changes come when we live as a Christian?

Outline:

1. What does it mean to live in the past?
 - a. to react to conditions that existed long ago rather than those that exist now
 - i. Dwelling on old memories, you know the good old days
 - ii. We try with all that we have to try and rekindle those old memories, those old friendships that we loose sight of the opportunity to make new memories and friends, we fail to focus on the now our new life in Christ.
 - iii. If we are always looking backward we will not be able to move forward.
2. What changes come when we live as a Christian?
 - a. Our walk
 - i. We are no longer to walk as the nonbeliever in Christ.
 - (1) Because they are dead in their trespasses and sin and we are made alive in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:1)
 - b. Our thinking changes
 - i. Here is the proof in scripture:
 - (1) mind
 - (2) understanding
 - (3) ignorance
 - (4) Learned Christ

- c. Our Life changes.
 - i. We put off our former conduct (Eph 4:22)
- 3. Why must all this change?
 - a. Because when we accept Jesus as our Lord and savior we become a new creation in Christ.
 - i. (2 Corinthians 5:17) 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
 - b. Jesus needs to be our focus so if HE is our focus that means HE needs to be in front, if not we are going to be like Peter walking on the water when he takes his eyes off of Jesus he starts to sink. Folks when we take our eyes off of Jesus we will start to sink, because when we take our eyes off of Jesus is when we start reverting back to our old lives and that is a place that Christ Jesus cannot go.

Conclusion:

Are you living in the past and unable or unwilling to live in the now or the future in Christ? Have you accepted Christ and still find yourself in the past? Then now is the time for true repentance for today is the day of salvation. Christ desires you to live in truth and not in ignorance.