

## EPHESIANS 4:17-24 "NEW OR OLD? YOU CHOOSE"

FASC IMP SHOWS: Property Brothers, Bar Rescue, Fixer Upper, Extreme Home Makeover. Maine Cabin Masters, LOVE TO SEE BROKEN RUN DOWN MADE NEW

- Jesus doesn't do that with homes. He does it with lives. **Some exp / some need**
- PAUL FOCUSED ON WHO YOU ARE – NOW – **HOW YOU LIVE - REALITY**

**MP: Christ and the gospel-centered life bring the only real power and pathway for meaningful self-improvement. Not by improving the old you, but by making you new.**

**THERE'S AN EXPECTED DIFFERENCE - TESTIFY IN THE LORD** – that's a big deal

- BC U MUST NO LONGER LIVE LIKE THOSE DON'T KNOW GOD (think/sink)
  - o You know the people who haven't met Jesus, saved of sins, forgiven.

When you experience Jesus, you change because you have been changed.

The Gospels are filled with lives that have been changed by Jesus. What would the gospels be without stories of transformation? **(THINK)** Not just theology or information.

**Mary, Peter, Matthew, Paul, Zacchaeus (before and after – process – impact)**

### **LIFE BEFORE WE MET JESUS PAUL DESCRIBES**

**The way you thought led to the lifestyle you lived. Thinking was darkened. Blind**

Hum Eye distinguish 100 million colors, 7 million cone photoreceptors, 100 mill light sensitive cells, POWER/CAPACITY of your eye means nothing w/o light. CAN'T SEE Before you met Jesus you were living with...

- **Darkened Understanding** – living w/o light – living in the darkness/confus
  - o THIS IS WHY WE REFER TO PEOPLE AS LOST...not degrading. reality
  - o High School: driving your car and turn off the lights. SCARY. CRASH
    - No light no vision – spiritually true – no light from Jesus - blind
- **Alienated from the life of God** (isolated, separated, divided) ZOE
  - o Doesn't matter how religious or spiritual you consider urself to be.....
  - o Dead in trespasses and sins
- **Hardened Calloused Heart:** contributed by resisting conscience/law
  - o Calloused: beyond feeling, no shame, embarrassment or guilt - PRIDE
  - o Given themselves to sensuality – greedy to practice every kind of impurity
  - o VICIOUS CYCLE THAT A PERSON CAN NOT SAVE THEMSELVES FROM

How can someone who is blind and in darkness save themselves when they can't see? They need someone to help them.

### **JESUS DELIVERS US FROM OUR DARKNESS**

John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Jesus brings - Truth, light, life – not in principle but personified in HIM. Not just that he brought but that HE IS.

- Yes, lifestyle change, but a lifestyle change because
  - o Minds no longer darkened: **minds are being renewed by Christ's light**
  - o Lives no longer alienated from God: **Filled fullness of God's life**
  - o Hearts no longer hardened: **New HEARTS**

2 Cor 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- HEART, MIND, LIFE: The totality of your being – **IMPROVE YOUR SELF?**

Jesus is the truth and light, and He leads you to God's life when you believe, receive, and follow Him.

- **DON'T FALL BACK** - Maybe even stronger point to people He was writing too.
  - o **AS CHRISTIANS WE DON'T HAVE A FALL BACK...**

Thinking you can live that old life and call yourself a Christian is not only impossible, it is not what you were taught!

- o **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL – SEPARATE FROM NATIONS – DRAWN BACK**

**HOW? ILL: PUT OFF OLD WORN CLOTHES / PUT ON NEW BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES**

- Put off your old self – belongs to your former manner of life, and is corrupt through deceitful desires – **FOLD IT UP, SET IT ASIDE, AND DON'T GO BACK**
- Be renewed in the spirit of your minds: Constantly Renew Your way of thinking

**Romans 12:1-2** Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

- Put on the new self – **THE NEW YOU**

Grow to know who you are in Christ and choose to live in that new you.

- o Created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness
- o Light working in and out through you in both of those.