

MONDAY NIGHT MEETING

EPHESIANS - AN ENLIGHTENED WALK

FEBRUARY 20, 2017

I. ANSWER TO THE PRESSURE OF AN UNBELIEVING WORLD

A. General conditions of the people in general - Empty thinking

B. Reason for the condition

1. Darkened in their understanding (4:18)
 - a. They do not know what is going on around them
 - b. They do not know where the world is headed
2. Excluded from the life of God (4:18)
 - a. They lack the life necessary to live correctly

C. Result of their condition

1. Given to sensuality
2. Dominated by impurity
3. Given to greed

II. REMINDER OF GOD'S WORK OF REGENERATION

A. We were dead in our trespasses and sins

1. Guilty
2. Lifeless

B. God's answer

1. On the cross Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins against God
2. On the same cross Jesus took us to Himself and made true life possible

So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, 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; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

~ Ephesians 4:17-19

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

~ Ephesians 2:4-6

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

~ Ephesians 2:10

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C. God's work in us

1. We died in Christ
 - a. A real break with the power of sin in my life came to pass
 - b. A true spiritual (not just intellectual) change occurred
2. We came to life in Jesus Christ
 - a. Raised us up to share His position
 - b. Raised us up to share His life
3. Called us to live for His sake

III. THE OUTWORKING OF REGENERATION

A. Put off the sinful practices of the old life

1. Because of the power of the cross in our lives

B. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind

1. Adopt the outlook of Christ
2. Because of the life of Christ within

C. Put on the new man - Put on the life of Christ to answer to the new mind set

Therefore I urge you, 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. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

~ Romans 12:1-2

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.

~ Philippians 2:5

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

~ Philippians 2:12-13