

Ephesians 14-06-08

This is Sunday, the 8th of June, 2014. If you turn in your Bibles to Ephesians chapter 4, we pick up our study of this great letter from the Apostle Paul to the Laodiceans in verse 20. We'll take a moment at the outset to ensure that we are prepared for the study of God's word, to concentrate on it, to have God the Holy Spirit make it clear to us.

This is the great thing about God the Holy Spirit. He is such a wonderful presence and power. You may not have thought of this, but it is a daunting thing to try to get a good grip on the word of God and then present it to other people.

If you're just studying for yourself and you mess it up, you only slow yourself down. But if you study and then pass on what you think you have learned to other people and you mess up, that's a scary thing and a discouraging thing. However, because of God the Holy Spirit, there is a transcendent force at work that will take the truth of God's word, and despite the limitations of the communicator, will take it from the pages of your Bible into your heart and into your soul.

It doesn't get slowed down by me, which is a great comfort to me and should be a great comfort to you. It is God who is at work in you to will and to do for his good pleasure. If we are asking and seeking and knocking, all of us will learn.

It is the power of God's spirit that makes that happen. That's why we always acknowledge his ministry and ensure that we are susceptible to it before we address scripture. There's really no point in human strength and human wit, human intelligence, human ideas.

All we will do is corrupt it. This is why there are so many interpretations, why there is so much misunderstanding of God's word. The first step off of the narrow road is to forget that it is God's spirit that makes it happen.

He is the one that leads us into all truth. Not any human author, not any human pastor, not any human teacher, not any scholar, expositor, interpreter. It is exclusively God's Holy Spirit that leads us into the truth.

Without him, it is truly a waste of time to even look at the scriptures. It's him or nothing. This time is important as we bow before the Lord in prayer.

Father, we recognize that you are our strength and our redeemer. We ask that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our heart be acceptable in your sight. We thank you for the Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank you that through him, we have the privilege of addressing ourselves directly to you as our Father. We represent ourselves before you as priests. We have the privilege of ministry to one another, and we are able to witness and to represent the Lord Jesus Christ to the world as

ambassadors.

We pray that as we look at this portion of your word together, that God the Holy Spirit will make it meaningful and motivating and convicting to each one of us, that our faith will be the difference, that it will be the defining spirit within us, so that the time that you have given to us as a precious gift will be well invested and will return in abundance and with interest your glory and the glory of the Lord Jesus. We pray these things in his name, amen. In the book of Ephesians, chapter 4, beginning at verse 17, this I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord that you should no longer walk as the Gentiles walk in the futility, the vacuum, the mataiotes of their mind, having their understanding darkened.

In contrast to chapter 1, where the eyes of our hearts have been enlightened. If the eyes of our hearts have been enlightened, why on earth would we shut those eyes and stumble around in the dark? It makes no sense at all. So he says, he testifies, he's already beseeched us in verse 1 to no longer walk as the Gentiles walk in this emptiness of mind, futility of mind, having their understanding darkened, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them.

And this ignorance that is in them is willful ignorance. That's why that phrase follows it. The ignorance that is in them by them that is caused by them is chosen by them.

This isn't just a fatal flaw or an Achilles heel. This is in them because they chose it. They embraced it.

They enfolded it. That's why ignorance is in them. Agnoia instead of Epinosus, because of the blindness of their hearts.

We quoted our memory verse this morning from Corinthians. The God of this world has blinded the minds of whom? Those who believe not. Which comes first, the blindness or the lack of belief? Which comes first? Do they not believe because they're blind or are they blind because they don't believe? It's a big difference because if they don't believe because they're blind, whose fault is it? Devil made me do it.

Devil blinded me. I couldn't see the truth. Condemn him.

Send him into the lake of fire. It's not my fault. He blinded me.

How do you expect me to see if I'm blind? What comes first? Lack of belief, rejection, apisteia, faithlessness, willful rejection. It's like the sin of the high hand. They know him as God.

They do not glorify him as God. Neither are they thankful. They become vain, empty, futile in their imagination, and their foolish heart is darkened.

Romans chapter 1. Who being past feeling. Do you remember this word that we talked about last time? Remember the past feeling word? We talked about an analgesic. A lot of us have had

analgesics even recently.

Some of us work with them on a daily basis. But if you have had anything to deaden the pain, topically especially, that's what it says on the Bactine bottle. I checked it again this week.

It says antiseptic, analgesic. It does both. Solar cane is an analgesic.

You spray it on your sunburn and allegedly it won't hurt so much. Analgesic. Who being past feeling.

They are numb. Have you seen this in our culture? You look at people and they do these heinous things and they don't feel the way I would feel if I was anywhere near that behavior, those activities, that look. I've seen people that I don't know how they get through the airport because they've got so much metal stuck through their skin in various places.

Have you seen this? It's in their lips and noses and eyebrows and ears and foreheads. It's just weird, weird. You'd have to be past feeling in some sense to decide that you need to alter your appearance and identify with a particular culture in that way.

This is an aside, but in my view, anybody that goes to excessive lengths to identify with some particular subsection of culture. This can be everything I do. You never see me without a hat and boots and a big rodeo belt buckle even though I've never been to a farm.

I drive a truck and I've got a shotgun in the back, but I don't shoot. People want to. It's an insecurity where you must somehow enhance yourself or add to yourself or wrap yourself in something.

I mean, you don't have to be a psychologist to say that's somebody who doesn't feel adequate in and of themselves. Why would you need to just be at the extremes? It's fine. I mean, I've got Western clothes.

I wear my utility pants because they're comfortable and they remind me of days gone by. I like them. And we've all got stickers on our cars and things.

I'm talking about people that go really excessively into this. You never see them without it. And they're at the far edges of gothism or rapism or whatever.

And in earlier days, people did this with the 50s look. You'd never see them without their James Dean look or they were trying to look like a dangerous person. This is what people do.

When they are past feeling, sometimes they have to go to some extreme lifestyle or an extreme counterculture to feel again, to identify. The standard affiliations of life, friendships and acquaintances and normal things like a church or fellowship with coworkers doesn't do it for them. They've got to find something more extreme.

This is being past feeling. But in particular, notice that there is an association between being past feeling and lacking faith. And I didn't talk about this last week, but stop and think about this just for a moment.

We don't go on feelings, do we? We're modern. We're children of the enlightenment. We believe in logic.

And if it's reasonable, that's what you should do. And it's extremely hot and I'm extremely tired, but the grass in the lawn is extremely long. And so even though I'm tired and even though it's hot and even though I really don't feel like mowing the lawn, I'm going to do it because it's the right thing to do.

I need to do it. We're driven by these recognitions of priorities. We have values.

We have standards. We have commitments. We do things for other people.

People don't feel like doing the dishes, but they have a commitment and a love for their family. They don't feel like doing the laundry, but they have a commitment and a love for their family and they do it anyway. Guys that go to work, a lot of times the last thing they want to do is go to work, but they have a commitment to their family to pay the bills and support the household.

They have a commitment to their employer to get there and do the job that somebody else is going to have to do or it won't get done. So we don't operate on feelings in these areas. We operate on our values and our priorities and ultimately our goals, right? The problem is it doesn't say that these people having their understanding darkened, alienated from the life of God, ignorance, blindness, who being past reason, being past logic, being past valid argumentation, it says being past feeling.

They have left the age of reason. They have left the realm of reason and they've gone to the area of feeling, but they're calloused. They've exhausted it.

They're empty. And so they're past feeling and so they have given themselves over to these excessive trying to get the feeling back. They have to push.

They've got to go further. So they've given themselves to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. And this greediness sounds like they're greedy for like Silas Marner or Ebenezer Scrooge or somebody that's a miserly, grasping, monetarily obsessed person.

That's not what it is. Covetous means they crave. This is cravenessness.

You know, they talk about a craven coward. Craving is because they're past feeling, they have to push to get any sort of reaction in their own soul. It's a miserable, miserable place to be.

You leave the realm of thinking and you leave the realm of processing thought and life is thought.

Did you ever think about this? Even your identity and who you are is built almost entirely on your memories, where you have been, who you know, what you have done. In your mind, doesn't the past sort of exist as a place that you could potentially visit? It's like, well, I can go visit my parents up in Rogers County or I can go visit somebody I know in Houston or in Philadelphia or some far off place.

I know those people. I have a sketch of where they live and who they are. It's in my mind.

And the past is just like that. And this is why people are so obsessed with time travel, going back into the past and reliving it. Every molecule of the past is absolutely, totally, completely gone.

The past exists nowhere except up here. And if all of us woke up, if there was some great magnetic event in the sky and every single person on the planet woke up this morning with no memory of the past, well, it would be complete chaos. Nobody would know who they are, what they're supposed to do, why they are where they are, how to operate anything, how to do anything.

Memory is such a precious thing. Well, memory is the fuel of two things, thought and feeling. I could take a guy that is in some isolated primitive culture and show him an American flag and he would have no patriotic reaction whatsoever.

Take somebody that has served in the military overseas, show them an American flag. There's a deep, emotional, visceral reaction. Why? Memory.

If I had woken up this morning and had no memory of my past, no memory of history or anything else, and you showed me an American flag, I wouldn't know if it was a tablecloth or a beach towel. No, it's based on memory and memory fuels our thinking and our feeling. Well, both of these things deteriorate in the faithless world.

Their understanding is darkened and they are past feeling. That's verse 18 and verse 19. And if you have a dark understanding and if you are past feeling, what is your life? It is a craving pursuit and it pushes people to extremes.

This is what lewdness and uncleanness is. But verse 20 where we pick up this morning, you have not so learned Christ. There are different words for teaching and learning and sometimes you'll find didosco in the passive.

You have not been taught Christ this way. We could have easily put didosco in the passive. We had that elsewhere in this passage.

But this is to learn. You have not so learned. And the word for learn here is manthano.

Manthano, M-A-N-T-H-A-N-O. It has a really interesting history because it goes back to this idea of memory. It goes back to the idea of learning by experience.

It basically in its earliest sense meant to experience something. You go back to Homer and the Iliad and some of these early uses of Greek where we look for the root meaning of words. And he used this for someone experiencing something.

Now, it doesn't mean to experience. You have not so experienced Christ, the Jesus experience. We're not in the 60s with flowers and peace signs and everything was the Jimi Hendrix experience and everything is an experience.

But it means to learn by experience. This doesn't mean you didn't sit in a classroom and hear about Christ this way. This is not talking about Bible class.

When it says you have not so learned, it means you have not come to know Christ. Come to know by experience. We don't typically use come to know in a classroom setting, do we? All of us have been in some kind of a classroom or other.

We're learning from the Word of God right now. But you don't go later and say, well, you know, I came to know the most interesting thing this morning in class. The professor said this.

The pastor said that. And so, Montano, a good translation of it is come to know. You have not come to know in this way Christ.

And that makes sense out of verse 21. If indeed you have heard him and been taught by him. Have been taught.

There's your passive of Didasco. You have not come to know Christ. You have not so learned Christ.

You have not so come to know Christ. If indeed. And this is simply the word if.

But it's. Do you remember the conditions, the conditional clauses in Greek? First class, second class, third class and fourth class conditions. That's the classic way.

I don't even know if they teach it this way anymore, but it's very helpful. First class condition in Greek, if and it's true. Second class condition, if and it's not true.

Third class condition, if I don't know if it's true. Maybe it is, maybe it isn't. I hope it's true.

I hope it's not true. It's kind of up in the air. It doesn't lean one way or the other.

Fourth class condition is relatively rare. I wish it were true, but it's not. If I was a genius, classes would be better.

I wish it were true, but it's not. That's the fourth class. This is a first class condition, if and it's true.

This is AEI, the Greek particle, translated if or since, plus the indicative. And the verb here,

actually both verbs, are in the aorist, indicative. If, and that's why it says if indeed, they're trying to say, it would be almost better to say since.

Since you have. You have not so learned Christ. You have not so come to know Christ since you have heard him and have been taught by him.

Make sense? You haven't gone down this Gentile road of dark understanding and senselessness, insensitivity, numbness, calloused over, past feeling. You have not so learned Christ since you have heard him. This is AKUO, which is to hear the sound, like acoustics, and have been taught by him.

Hands up, everybody that has heard the Lord Jesus teach. Heard his voice. Thank you.

You have not. So, what's he talking about here? Is he talking to some older hangers-on that might have been in the crowds that Jesus addressed in the Sermon on the Plain or the Sermon on the Mount? He says, since you have heard him and been taught by him. How is this possible? I understand been taught, but heard, AKUO, you have heard him and been taught by him.

Well, the preposition here that is translated by is EN. EN, like the dative, locative, and instrumental case in Greek, means in, by, or with, by means of. And our word in, I-N, is related to this EN in Greek.

But this basically means by him. You have been taught by him. You have heard him.

Now, what this tells us is we're in the same situation as the Old Testament saints who were visited by the active, living presence of the angel of the Lord. The angel of the Lord came to Abraham. The angel of the Lord visited Manoah.

The angel of the Lord talked to Joshua. The angel of the Lord was quite active in the Old Testament. Many people, it is, many people believe it is commonly taught that this was the pre-incarnate Christ.

Go, be born, be fed, pre-incarnate Christ, believing people. I do not believe that. And the capital pronouns and so on that are attributed, I think, are mistaken.

The angel of the Lord is an angel. Angelos, a messenger of God. To which of the angels said he at any time, sit at my right hand.

Jesus Christ is not an angel. But he spoke in the first person for God. And so hearing the angel of the Lord was to hear God speak.

No man has seen God at any time. But the angel of the Lord spoke in the first person for God. He's like a walking telephone.

Similarly, your apostles, your prophets, your evangelists, and your pastors and teachers in this

age should be transparent enough that God's word, God's voice, the Lord Jesus Christ, red letter edition words, come through and speak directly to each one of us. That's the way it should be. There should not be a personality cult or any excessive attention paid to any evangelist, apostle, pastor, teacher, prophet, what have you.

The communicator is a conduit through which the word of God is supposed to flow. This is why these people who have heard the apostles and prophets and evangelists in their day have heard Christ. You have heard him and you have been taught by him.

Why? Because transparently the word of God, the mind of Christ, has come from its original source, which in this day had largely not been written down yet. But it was transmitted to these people undiminished, undiluted, uncolored. And that's how it should be.

A good communicator of the word of God gets out of the way, pulls the curtain aside so that we can all see exactly what scripture says. That's what we look for. That's what we crave.

That's what we desire. So you have not so come to know Christ since you have heard him and been taught by him as the truth is in Jesus, as here is is key to understanding this passage. Because it's kata, kata.

It's combined here. It's kind of hiding. It's kathos, which is kata plus hos.

But kata, according to, according as, would be a good translation. Now, why does this matter? According as such as since. Why does it matter? We have kata coming up a couple more times in this verse.

And in Greek, it aligns and speaks really clearly. It's a little bit obscure in the English. But you should have an experiential knowledge of Christ.

Not a book knowledge, not a biographical knowledge. You know, Bethlehem, Jerusalem at the age of 12, began his ministry at 30, got baptized by John, went about teaching and preaching, healing, rebuke the disciples, walked on the water. Got in trouble with the authorities, arrested, crucified, rose, spoke the disciples a little bit, ascended and is gone.

That's the book knowledge of the Lord Jesus. That's not what this is talking about. When it says to learn by experience, to Montano, my faith is, by the way, is the word, the noun that comes from this verb.

It means to to come to know. And in my faith, this is a disciple. A learner, a follower.

And this isn't somebody who reads a book about Jesus. This is somebody who follows. This is someone who spends time with and comes to know.

So the question is here for us, are we a my faith is, are we learners in the ongoing sense of Jesus

Christ personally by our experience? What this basically means is, yes, we learn the word of God. We study what Jesus said and did. We study what the apostles say and in some cases do.

We interpret that. We try to come to understand the plan and purpose of God, but it has to work itself out in application. It is not the learning.

In other words, your spiritual life is not Bible class. You could put a calendar on the wall and every Friday put an X and every Sunday put an X for when you attend or two X's because it's a double session. I get double credit.

Two X's on Friday, two X's on Sunday. Doesn't count for spiritual life. It is a wonderful thing to do, but it doesn't count.

Do not measure. Don't look at the calendar and say, look, there were five weeks in that month and I've got 10 X's. I am a spiritual giant.

I walk among the stones of fire. I am in the garden of God. I can ascend almost as high as God himself because look at what I know.

Look at what I've learned. Look at where I've been. Look at the people I hang out with who are also extremely holy and advanced and wonderful believers.

We're all on the narrow road heading through the straight gate. So I was there. Count me in for crowns, rewards, citizenship in the heavenly Jerusalem with a large, well stocked pantry in my mansion.

It's going to be great. No. What this verse is telling us, what this passage is telling us is it is not what you learn in class.

It is what you learn in life. It is not your wiki. It is your walk.

That's your little phrase for the day. It's not the knowledge base. This is why you have the internet that's got every fact known to man and there's still so many dumb people walking around.

It's not enough that the knowledge is available or even that you've looked at it. It's what we do with it. Matheteo.

Mathetes. This is to know by walking, by experience, by getting it done. I can look at a video on how to fix the electronic odometer in the dash of my Ford Expedition.

But I do not have a matheteo learning until I go out there with my tools, take the dash apart, get that circuit board out, get the heat gun, remelt the cold solder joints, put it all back together, turn on the car and see it work. Now I am a mathetes. Now I am an odometer for expeditions expert.

I've done it myself. That's how you learn Christ. And if you do not learn Christ in that way, see

above for consequences.

You can write in the margin of your Bible right next to verse 20. You have not. So learn Christ.

See above. If I have not learned Christ. If Christ is not in my experience, if I am not applying and living out.

And what does this mean? When I decide to do a thing, I'm going to decide how to do it. Am I going to do it as under the Lord or I'm going to do it because I think it's a good idea. Somebody else is going to be pleased.

Some human mundane, any unbeliever can do it dynamic. Old pastor from years gone by used to say anything an unbeliever can do is not the Christian way of life. Think about that.

Anything an unbeliever can do is not the Christian way of life. We do mundane things. We do ordinary things, but we don't do them the way unbelievers do them.

We don't do them for the reasons unbelievers do them. We don't do them with the attitude of the Gentiles. We don't do it with the corrupt short-term human thinking.

Walking in the futility, the darkness of their minds, being past feeling. We don't operate that way. We have not so learned Christ.

This is the hammer hitting us in the head saying judge yourself lest you be judged. Be sure you are walking and learning. If indeed you have heard him and have been taught by him.

This is the first step. This is what we're doing right now. Hearing him and being taught by him.

Akuo and Didasco. According as the truth. We've spent the last two weeks talking about truth.

Truth decay. Attacks on truth. The seven-fold corruption and undercutting of everything about the truth.

And we saw the seven-fold manifestation of people who reject truth in the preceding section here. Notice right in the center verse 21. The truth is in Jesus.

It doesn't say the truth is in the Lord. It doesn't say the truth is in Christ. It doesn't say the truth is in God.

Of the available names of our Savior. Which one is chosen here? The truth is in Jesus. Yeshua.

The incarnate human is emphasized. Man walking in the power of God's spirit. Jesus.

Yeshua. Savior. How was he able to save? How was he himself delivered? The power of God that was in him.

He walked in the spirit. He was filled with the spirit out from his mother's womb. And what he did, he did in the presence and power of the spirit.

By every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. The word and the spirit. The truth is in Jesus.

Look to Jesus. He is our example. Paul understood this and Paul was careful in his selection of words.

Looking unto Jesus. The author and finisher of our faith. It doesn't say looking unto Christ.

Looking unto the Lord. Looking unto the Savior. Looking unto anything other than Jesus.

Looking unto Jesus. This is the Lord Jesus in his humanity. Showing us how a human being in the presence and power of the spirit.

Guided by and dedicated to the word of God. Has the presence and power of God. That accomplishes things that seem impossible.

With God all things are possible. The truth is in Jesus. According as the truth is in Jesus.

Kata. Why is that important? Very quickly now. The next verse that you put off concerning your former conduct.

The old man. Which grows corrupt according to deceitful desires. Desires deceive us.

If there is one common theme in every Disney movie that's been made. And most other movies that are feel good and heartwarming. And end in an obligatory applause scene at the end.

What is the, if you had to boil it down to a single theme. What is it? Follow your heart and everything will turn out great. Follow your heart.

Just follow your heart. Climb every mountain. Forward every stream.

Sound of music. Follow every rainbow till you find your dream. Dreams will live.

Your dream. The rules. The man has made rules.

The establishment. Whatever they call it these days. I don't know.

That's old terminology now. The authorities. The powers that be.

They've made these rules because they're trying to suppress you. And hold you back. And keep you from finding your dream.

And accomplishing your goals. And fulfilling your desires. And you can't follow your heart

because of the rules.

So the subtext. The flip side of the coin of follow your heart is. And you'll have to break the rules to do it.

Break the rules. Follow your heart. And you'll be rewarded.

This is the fantasy that is lived out in just dozens and dozens. And endless DVD loads of movies. Here's the thing.

Jeremiah 17 verse 9. The heart is deceitful above all things. Deceitful. The heart is a liar.

The heart is a trickster. The heart is a shifty con man. Above all things.

And desperately wicked. Desperately wicked. Conniving.

Sneaky. Tell you anything to get you to do what it wants. That's the human heart.

So follow your heart. Is not good advice. Unless and until the eyes of your heart have been opened.

Jeremiah 17 verse 9 is not talking about the Ephesians one heart. Brethren my prayer for you. The eyes of your heart having been enlightened.

So that you may come to know. Those three wonderful areas about Jesus Christ. He's summing that up here.

The truth is in Jesus. And the enlightened heart. The heart with eyes wide open.

Enables us to put off. Concerning your former conduct. Put off concerning your former conduct.

The word concerning. Kata. Kata.

Write it down. According as Kata. The truth is in Jesus.

Put off. Kata. Proteron.

Anastrophe. This is Proteron. This is the former.

This is what was. Pro. Proactive.

You get active beforehand. Your progenitors are the ones that generated you beforehand. Pro means.

Before in some cases. And Anastrophe is the word here translated conduct. And this is.

The. There's a circularity in Anastrophe. Ana means again.

And Astrophe is like a line. And you go the lines again and again. This is your.

This is your. You sing the same song over and over. Same song.

Different verse. A little bit louder. A little bit worse.

You know. Same song. Same verse.

A little bit louder. A little bit worse. Same song.

Same verse. Anastrophe. You're.

This is very similar to Peripateo. Walking around and around and around. Put off.

Take off. This is. Apo.

Tithami. Tithami is to put her to place. And Apo means off.

You put off. You push it away. Set aside.

Is also a good. Translation of this. Set aside.

This. Running back and forth in the rut. Set off.

Set aside. According to. Everything that is according to that.

Whatever corresponds. Whatever. Coincides.

According as the truth is in Jesus. We're going to put off. What is according to.

This. Rut. And.

This is the old man which grows corrupt. According to deceitful lusts. Be renewed.

Where? Verse 23 in the spirit. Of. Your mind.

Be renewed. In the spirit of your mind. There's a double emphasis on mind there.

Because when it says renewed. This is. On a. Nay.

A. O. A. Nay. A. O. S. Is a baby. It's a. Neo.

You know that guy. Neo. The reason they named him that.

In that. Tricking down the. Screensaver movie.

Matrix. The Matrix. The reason they named the main character.

Neo. He's. He's the new thing.

He's the. He's the. Sort of the Christ child of that.

Mythology. Neo. They didn't name him by accident.

This is. On a. Nay. A. O. This means.

To. Be. Reborn.

To be renewed. Over and over. On a. Means.

Repetition. Remember we had the. On a. Strophe.

Instead of walking back and forth in the line. Now. You're.

Renewed. You're. It's like a. It's like you're.

Born and reborn and reborn and reborn. Day by day by day. You're.

It's refreshed. It's. Restored.

And this is a continual process of renewal. It's. Rehabilitation that continues.

Again and again. Over and over. Continually.

So instead of. On a. Strophe. It's.

On a. No. A. O. In the spirit. The pneuma of your noose.

The spirit of your mind. Renewal takes place in the seat of thinking. We have to think differently.

And that's what he's getting at here. You have not. Experientially come to know Christ.

Until. Having heard. And having been taught.

It results in. This. Renewal.

We have to turn away from something bad, which is walking back and forth in the rut. And there's none of us that don't have these ruts. It's habitual.

It's. Natural. It's native.

There's a big. Be natural. Movement.

Let's just go. On natural. We're not going to.

Make any effort. To be anything other than our. Basic.

Self. We want to improve. We want to take the truth that we hear.

And. Be. Renewed.

Be restored. In the spirit of our minds. And.

Put on. Notice the structure here. Verses.

23 through 23. You put off. Concerning your former.

Conduct. According to your former. Conduct.

Kata. Your. Former.

Walking back and forth in the rut. The old man. Because if you don't.

What is the old man doing? He's growing. Corrupt. He's getting more.

Corrupt. You're advancing in corruption. You're going to be these people.

That. Get past. Feeling and have to go into lewdness and uncleanness.

To even. Have an experience. That's memorable enough to care about.

The old man. Grows corrupt. This by the way.

Is the answer to the question. Why the lake of fire. Without a connection to God.

Without the renewal that comes from God. Things grow. More and more corrupt.

They do not stay at a steady state. They deteriorate. They degenerate.

And. God must eliminate. What degenerates.

Or. It will infect. Creation.

This is what the. Human. History.

Experiment. Demonstrates. To the angels and to us.

If you leave it. Unaddressed. If you just leave it alone.

It will grow worse. It grows corrupt. According to these.

Deceptive. Desires. We think we know what we want.

We think if I get that. I'll be happy. If I get that.

It's going to be great. And it deceives us. It's a bait and switch.

We get there. And it's not. You bite the apple.

It turns to ashes. It turns to dust. Something that seems so great in the late evening.

You wake up in the cold light of dawn. And you're horrified. It is tragic.

You think what. Stupidity. Obsessed me to do this.

Irreversibly dumb thing. This clinically stupid action. Seemed to make so much sense.

When my deceitful desires. Were compelling me. Now in the cold light of day.

And I'm thinking about all the implications. And the. Irreversible consequences.

But you know the heart is deceitful. It pushes that into the background. Eve didn't think about any of the.

Visit of God in the garden in the afternoon. When she bit the fruit. That's what it's talking about here.

Put off. Cata. According to.

Your old honest trophy. The old man which grows. Corrupt.

According to. Cata. Deceitful lust.

And be. Renewed in the spirit of your mind. It doesn't.

It doesn't just go straight to put on. Put off and put on. You have to put off these things that.

Degenerate and deteriorate. And. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

And put on. These things go hand in hand. You cannot put on the new man.

Unless you are being renewed. Anna Noah. Oh in the spirit of your mind.

And put on. The new man. Which was.

Created. Cata. That on.

According to. God. You see the beautiful.

Structure here. Is just. Destroyed in the English.

But it's there in Greek. Truth is. Is according to Christ.

Cata. The former conduct. According to.

The former conduct. Grows corrupt. According to.

The deceitful lusts. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind. And put on the new man which was created.

Cata. That on. According to.

God. That's the standard of the new man. True righteousness.

True. Holiness. Lays it out pretty clear doesn't he.

It's pretty straightforward. Learning Christ. Has the hearing.

And teaching component. But it has to result in the. Montano experiential.

Living it out. That is how and where. We are renewed in the spirit of our mind.

It's a two part thing. It is the intake. And it is the.

Application. You put gas in the tank. You go out and burn it.

That's the human soul. Vivified. Renewed.

By the spirit of God. In the word of God. You can't just keep pouring gas in the tank.

Come into Bible class. Well. I see my grass is getting longer.

I better go put another gallon of gas in the mower. It's not going to get it. You got to go push the mower.

Preferably after you've. Turned it on. Turn it on and run it.

Use that fuel. Put it into application. That is Montano.

That is. Renewal. That's doing something fresh.

That is putting off the old man. Getting rid of the old trash. It's an active.

Effort that we. Choose to do. And we prosecute it.

We get after it. We make it happen. It is an active.

Not a passive process. You. It doesn't say.

Watch while your old man falls away. It practically sells itself. It just.

Look. I just. It's like a sham.

Wow. I just. I hear a Bible class.

And my old man. Just. My old clothes.

Just fall off. My new clothes. Just jump on me.

It's like George Jetson. He steps into a thing. Old clothes away.

New clothes on. And he's ready for work. It doesn't work that way.

It says. You put off. You put on.

Active. You. Put off.

Former conduct. The old man. What is the old man? It's anything that is according to the former conduct.

Are you still doing the old habits? Are you still falling for the old lies? Are you still perpetrating the old ways? That's the old man. Recognize it for the old man. Put it off.

Be renewed in the spirit of your mind. Come up with a new plan. A new priority.

A new goal. A new value. Meditate on the word of God and say.

This is the way I'm going to do this. And put on the new man. Which is according to God.

True righteousness. True holiness. This is permanent and eternal and lasting.

This is money in your bank account. That will never go away. It is a permanent eternal investment.

That's verses 20 through 24. We will pick up at verse 25. Next time.

Father thank you for the truth of your word. Thank you. That there is.

A truth. That is available to us. You have given us.

A supernatural provision. In the presence of your Holy Spirit. To understand it.

To. Have its power at work within us. To transform us.

To renew us. To thoroughly equip us for every good work. We pray that God the Holy Spirit will.

Bring these. Concepts to our awareness. And.

In his encouragement. May we put them into practice. And see their effects.

As the old man drops away in the new man. Reflecting. Your righteousness and your holiness.

Comes more and more centrally. To be in our lives. We pray these things in Jesus name.

Amen.