

EPHESIANS: PRECISION THINKING FOR ACCURATE THEOLOGY

SESSION 17 | EPHESIANS 4:22-29

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR WALK | EPHESIANS 4:17-32

- Verses 17-22 included on session 16.
- Verse 22 –
 - These are simple instructions. Because a believer has **learned Christ** (v. 20) and **heard him** and **been taught by him** (v. 21) the believer is to live differently than before.
 - The believer is to **put off** (v. 22), **be renewed** (v. 23), and **put on** (v. 24).
 - Note the following concerning v. 22:
 - This is a *repentance* of behavior, and is a *result of* not a *path to* belief in Christ.
 - The word **conversation** has changed in the English language, loosing its connection to its Latin root: *con vertere* (with a turn). The Latin closely matches the Greek ἀναστροφή [anastrophe] (*turning again*). The modern sense of the word did not come about until almost 1800. Thus, the instruction is to rid yourself of the *turning round and round* that the **old man** did.
 - The **old man** (before learning of Christ and being taught by Him) was **corrupt** with a corruption that came from **deceitful lusts**. The Greek is literally *the lusts that belong to deceit*. The lusts are real, but they were created by the deceit of the deceiver, Satan himself.
- Verse 23 –
 - Since there is an **old man** (v. 22) that has now come to faith, he is to **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**.
 - Paul doesn't give a step-by-step outline of how to achieve this renewal, possibly because it would be different for each person (or because we should learn to figure out some things for ourselves).
 - However, grammatically, Paul is not commanding the believer to **be renewed**, but showing this as a result of the verbs of vv. 20-21.
 - The verses can be displayed as follows:
 - You **learned**, you **heard**, and you were **taught** (vv. 20-21) *for the purpose of* putting off, being renewed, and putting on (vv. 22-24).
 - Each of the verbs in vv. 20-21 are in the indicative (a statement of fact) and each of the verbs in vv. 22-24 are in the infinitive (which requires a preceding verb).
- Verse 24 –
 - As with the preceding "instructions," this is a *result*.
 - However, one should not assume that because these are results that they do not require personal action.

