

## Ephesians Class Notes March 11, 2012

### Chapter 4: 17-32

#### Key verses 24 & 30

Paul uses the final sixteen verses of chapter four to instruct the church at Ephesus and us how to live and act in order to please Jesus.

#### Vs. 17-19

It is interesting to note in verse seventeen how Paul insinuates that the Gentile Christians in Ephesus are no longer Gentiles. Here he says you must not live any longer as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. Paul is saying they are now members of the Body of Christ. They are not what they used to be. They now have a new life in Jesus. Paul tells the Colossian church this in Col. 3:5-10. In verses eighteen and nineteen Paul reminds the Ephesians of what they were before the blood of Jesus cleansed them of their sins.

#### Vs. 20-24

In verse twenty Paul tells the Ephesians and us that we did not come to know Christ by living our old life style. In verses twenty-one through twenty-four Paul writes; you were taught in accordance with the truth that is in Christ Jesus. You were taught to do away with your former way of life and put off your old self, which is corrupted by its deceitful desires. Paul tells us we are made new in our attitudes and our ways because we have put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. This is the same thing Paul told the Roman church in chapter six and twelve, which we covered last week. The Hebrew writer makes it clear, that once we are members of the Body of Christ, Jesus expects us to live a new life much different from our old life. Heb. 10:23-29.

Paul uses the last eight verses of chapter four going into detail about the changes we must make in the way we live and act in order to please Jesus.

Vs. 25-27

Paul tells us not to let our anger cause us to sin. He says do not let the day end until we have controlled our anger. By doing this we will not allow Satan to gain a foothold. James tells in chapter four of his book how to keep Satan out of our lives. James 4:7-8.

Vs.28-29

We are told to be honest, hard working, and benevolent toward those in need. Paul says our speech must be wholesome and helpful to others in the body. James has a few things to say about speech in James 3: 9-12.

Vs.30

To understand Paul's directive in verse thirty, not to grieve the Holy Spirit of God, we must realize that we are God's temple. Paul writes in I Cor. 6: 19; do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you. When we as members of the Body of Christ live, act, and worship in a way unpleasing to our Lord, it grieves the Holy Spirit of God.

Vs. 31-32

Here we are reminded of some of the things we must change in our life. We are also told to be compassionate and forgiving to each other, just as God has been to us.

All that Paul is saying to the Ephesians and us, here in chapter four verses twenty through thirty-one, can be summed up in Deuteronomy Ch. 10: 12-14. In Deuteronomy chapter ten Moses instructs the Israelites how God wants them to live and act.