

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: August 9, 2020

Title: "How to Change and Grow" (Part 1)

Text: Ephesians 4:17-5:4

INTRODUCTION:

1. When a person joins an organization, he **obligates** himself to live and act in accordance with the standards of the organization. He accepts its' aims, objectives, and standards as his own.
2. When we received Christ as Savior we became citizens of His kingdom (Col. 1:13-14) and members of His family (Eph. 2:19). Along with the blessings and privileges we also took on **obligations**.
3. Ephesians, like other Pauline epistles, has two parts (chaps. 1-3 and chaps. 4-6). The "therefore" (NIV "then") of 4:1 marks the transition from positional to practical truth; from doctrine to duty.

DOCTRINE (or, Positional Truth; chaps. 1-3)

1. The _____ which God has given us in Christ (1:3-2:10)
 - God the Father "has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus" (1:3). Notice Paul's prayer (1:15-23).
 - Paul con'ts, - "you were dead; ... but ... God ... made us alive with Christ ... and God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him."
2. The _____ which God has created through Christ (2:11-3:21). Notice Paul's prayer (3:14-21).
3. Nobody can emerge from a careful reading of Paul's letter to the Ephesians with a _____ Gospel. Ephesians is the "good news" of the church.

DUTY (or, Practical Truth; chs. 4-6)

"I therefore, a prisoner of the Lord, urge you [beg you, implore you, beseech you]." He has taught them, and he has prayed for them (1:15-23; 3:14-19); now he makes a solemn appeal: "I urge you," he writes, "to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." [see 3:10-11]

1. _____ (4:1-16)

2. _____ (4:17-5:21)

A. The _____ Life (4:17-19)

1) _____ (v. 18)

2) _____ (vv. 17, 18)

3) _____ and _____ (v. 18)

4) _____ (v. 19)

B. The _____ Life (4:20-24)

1) " _____ " the old self

2) " _____ " the new self

3) "Be _____ in the attitude of your mind"

C. Six Concrete _____ (4:25-5:4)

Three features common to all six: (1) All 6 concern our relationships. (2) In each a negative prohibition is balanced by a corresponding positive command. (3) In each a reason, indeed a theological reason, for the command is either given or implied.

1) Don't tell lies, but rather tell the truth (25)

2) Don't lose your temper, but rather ensure that your anger is righteous (26, 27)

3) Don't steal, but rather work and give (28)

4) Don't use your mouth for evil, but rather for good (29-30)

5) Don't be unkind or bitter, but rather kind & loving (4:31ff)

6) Don't joke about sex, but rather give thanks for it (5:3-4)
Compare 1 Tim. 4:1-5 and Heb. 13:4

3. _____ in the Home (5:21-6:9)

Wives and Husbands; Children and Fathers; Slaves and Masters

4. _____ toward the Devil (6:10-20)

Don't be Naïve (10-12); Don't be Naked (13-17); Don't be Napping (18-20)