

“SPECIFICALLY SPEAKING...”

Ephesians 4:25-32

...“Perseverance of the Saints” means that those who are genuinely saved will persevere to the end. It is the flip side of the eternal security coin. One put it this way, “The only reliable evidence of a person’s being saved is not a past experience of receiving Christ but a present life that reflects Christ.” (1 John 2:4)

...“New creatures act like new creatures.” If you are saved, the life of God will become increasingly seen in your life. The “light” within you, will shine forth, it is unavoidable.

...Paul has called the believers in Ephesus to put off the old wardrobe of sin and replace it with the new, through the renewal of the mind. Now he presses on giving a series of specific commands describing the new wardrobe.

**FOUR SPECIFIC COMMANDS DIRECTING US TO ADORN THE “DOCTRINE OF GOD,”
THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITHIN.**

...Paul contrasts the old life with the new. This is what the Holy Spirit is producing in you, if you know Christ.

I. We Must Stop Lying, And Speak The Truth. (v.25)

...We must rigorously cultivate speaking the truth, resisting all attempts to “shade it.”

- A. Paul treats lying as the dominant characteristic of the old life.
 - 1. Satan is the originator of the lie. “He is the father of lies.” “the deceiver.”
 - 2. Our culture is saturated with lies...from ads/pols/contracts...and more!
...Our world oozes deception and falsehood.
- B. By embracing the truth of God, believers have renounced the principle of deceitfulness and the conduct which reflects it. Christians are to continually speak the truth.
 - 1. To tell the truth is to resemble our God, Who always tells the truth.
Jesus = truth.
 - 2. Paul tells that lying hurts the body of believers.
- C. Some ways we lie: white lies, exaggeration, slander (this is a lie), silence (seen as agreement), etc
- D. Christians can commit the sin of lying, but if your life is a habitual flow of lies coming from a deceptive heart, then you have real reason to doubt whether you are really saved.

II. We Must Be Free From Sinful Anger, Having Only The Righteous Kind (26-27)

...Don’t think that all anger is the same. We are called to be angry over the right issues within the limits.

- A. There is an anger that is righteous. Jesus was angry at times. Twice He cleansed the temple.
 - 1. This is being loyal to God & His work, and to be moved by this emotion when offended by evil. Some of the Psalms reflect this loyalty to our Lord God. (Imprecatory)
 - 2. This anger is to be limited. The day of our anger is the day we deal with it...or the danger is, it will lead to all sorts of other sins. “Don’t let the sun set...”

...Continued anger will invite our enemy Satan to tempt us into even greater evil.

- B. However, most of our anger is the sinful kind. It is centered in pride or self. Since our goal was blocked we feel very justified in expressing our evil thoughts and emotions to others.
...We must quickly deal with our anger. We must follow James' words, "Be slow to anger." (1:19)

III. **We Must Stop Stealing, And Instead Work, So We Can Give To Others. (v.28)**

...For many Christians are less than honest...in many ways. But new life demands newness of life.

- A. This comes from one of the 10 Commandments, the 8th. "You shall not steal." (Ex 20:15)
...A thief takes from others for his own benefit. This is a huge problem in our day! (stores)
- B. Rather than steal, the Word commands us to work. Work so that you might be able to help someone with legitimate material needs, so that they might not be tempted to steal.
..."More blessed to give than receive.." (Jesus) "Live to give!" Stop stealing.

IV. **We Must Stop Speaking Rotten Words, And Use Only Wholesome Speech(29-32)**

- A. The word for "corrupting" talk is the word used for rotting fruit, or any foods. Sticks!
1. Foul language should never come from your mouth as a believer..."out of character."
 2. James 3 tells about the tongue. "It is a fire, a world of iniquity."
...We grieve the Holy Spirit when we speak unwholesome words. (30)
- B. Rather than corrupting words, our words should always make a positive contribution. "Build up"
1. Note the six types of unwholesome speech that ought not be part of our words. (31)
 2. Rather these three wholesome words ought to characterize our speech. (32)
...Kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving words should typify our language.

SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN YOUR LIFE?

1. God is in the change business...if you know Christ as Savior you have received not only the Holy Spirit, but also a new nature. This new nature is the very image of Christ... God is preparing you for heaven by conforming you into His likeness. "...If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, the old is gone, all things are new." (2 Corinth 5:17)
2. Knowing that these things are true, "work out your own salvation" by putting on this new wardrobe. Determine to be a truth speaker, free from sinful anger, to stop stealing, and guard your words. Ask the Lord to help you in these things. He will.
3. Your words should always be filled with grace, loving, and kind. If you can't add wholesome words to a conversation, then don't say anything. Remember, God hears every word you say, and you will give an account for them. May God help us.
4. Finally, your lack of these things in your life, and your habitual opposite conduct probably reflects your need of Jesus as Savior. God loves you and has provided His own Son to die as "the sinner's substitute." You must acknowledge your sin, and bow before Him in your heart and receive Him as your Savior and Lord. Will you do so today? Tomorrow may be too late.