

Ephesians Scripture Week Twenty

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Rev. 21:1- Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." Then He said to me, "*It is done*. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

Phil. 2:15 prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life....

Eph. 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them *we too all* formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, *even as the rest*.

Prov. 23:7 As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.

1 Jn. 2:17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

1 Corinthians 3:20 The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.

Acts 14:15 Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain (futile) things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

God has an even less flattering view of the mind of man.

Genesis 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Rom. 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up... and since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up....

Jn. 14:16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the *world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him*, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

Col. 1:16 ...All things were created through Christ and for Christ.

Rev.9:1 And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft.

Rev. 16:10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish

Jn. 3:19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

Col. 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, *bearing fruit* in every good work and increasing in the *knowledge of God*; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For *He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son*, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Mat. 20:18 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him

Rom. 4:23-25 Now not for his (Abraham's) sake only was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

1 Pt. 1:1 Beloved, I urge you as *aliens and strangers* to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Discussion

1. What part of the culture is currently enticing you to walk the way the "gentiles" walk? If you say, "nothing" then quickly have someone check your pulse.

Examples would be culture of fatigue/despair/outrage. Culture of self-focus. Making decisions based on income, comfort, appearance...

2. What specific truth, anywhere from Ephesians 1-3, can speak to the cultural lie that draws you into dark thinking?