

This Year Will Be Different

Pt. 1: A Worthy Walk

Eph. 4:17-24

Introduction:

- A. The new year usually means two things: reflection on the past and a reset for the future.
- B. Upon reflection, so many of us find that we did not end up living the way we had hoped, especially when it comes to our spiritual lives.
- C. What if we decided this year was going to be different. What if this year our focus was on walking in a manner worthy of our calling (Eph. 4:1)?

Do Not Live As An Unbeliever (vs. 17-21)

- A. Paul told these Christians that they could not live like everyone else now that they were Christians.
- B. Christians are called to be set apart. When we obeyed Christ, we became part of a new creation, a new race, a new body (II Cor. 5:17; I Pet. 2:9-10).
- C. Ask yourself, "Have I been living for self or for the Savior?"

Ways To Avoid Living Like An Unbeliever (vs. 22-24)

- A. Put off your old way of life (v. 22)
 - 1. Putting off one's old life is a daily battle. Even the apostle Paul struggled with the fight against the old man (Rom. 7:15, 19).
 - 2. Demas left Paul and his work because of his love for the world (2 Tim. 4:10).
 - 3. Satan does not stop coming after us when we begin our walk with God (I Pet. 5:8).
- B. Change the way you think (v. 23)
 - 1. Elsewhere Paul says we need to set our mind on things above (Col. 3:2).
 - 2. Paul said that not conforming to the world around us only happens when we change the way we think (Rom. 12:2).
 - 3. Changing the way we think begins with replacing the garbage with God's Word (Phil. 4:8; Psa. 119:9-11).
- C. Live Like Jesus (v. 24)
 - 1. The lives we live should be a reflection of Jesus (I Pet. 2:21).
 - 2. Paul commended the Thessalonians' faith and example (I Thess. 1:7-8).
 - 3. We need to live so that others can see Christ living in us (Matt. 5:13-16).

Conclusion:

- A. This year, will we choose to live the life God has called us to, or will we live like those who do not follow God and His standard for living?
- B. If you have not been living a life that is worthy of your calling, you can get back on the right path this morning.
- C. Let's all decide today that this year is going to be different; that we are going to have a worthy walk by living like a believer.