

I. Introduction and Review.

A. Why is Our Society Deteriorating?

B. Paul Gives a Masterful Diagnosis of Our Decaying World.

II. You Have Abandoned the Futile Life of the Pagans. v. 17- 19 Romans 1:18- 32

A. The Cause of the Natural Man's Plight is in his Mind. v. 18 Gen. 6:5
Every Unbeliever Has a Mental Problem.

1. His Understanding is Darkened. v. 18a I Cor. 2:14

- a. The Biblical Concept of the Mind Goes for Beyond Mere Intellect.
- b. The fall affects the whole man.
- c. This does not mean that their brains cannot know facts.
The World has information, but they lack true knowledge.

2. He is Culpably Ignorant of Ultimate Truth. v. 18c Rom. 1:18- 22 John 9:40- 41

3. He is Alienated From the Life of God. v. 18b 2:1,12 Isa. 53:6 Rom. 1:21

- a. There is no life apart from God.
- b. It is impossible to have morality without godliness.

4. His Heart has Become Petrified. v. 18d John 3:19

B. The Natural Man Consequently is Enslaved to Wicked Behavior. v. 19

1. He is Morally beyond Feeling. v. 19a I Tim. 4:2 Jer. 6:15 Rom. 2:14- 15
If you want to enjoy a life of sin, you must deaden your God given conscience.

2. He has Given Himself Over to the Reign of the Flesh - Psychopathic Sinners. v. 19b

- a. Who gives whom over? Who does the hardening?
- b. The punishment for sin is more sin. Rom. 1:24- 32
- c. Those who act this way do so by their deliberate rejection of God. Rom. 1:32
- d. They are enslaved to their lusts.

3. He is Involved in Every Kind of Impurity. v. 19c

4. He is Controlled by an Insatiable Desire for More. v. 19d

C. The Life of the Unbeliever is an Exercise in Futility! v. 17b, 22 Ecc. 1:2 Rom. 1:21

1. The Lusts Which Enslaved You are Deceitful. v. 22 Jer. 17:9 Prov. 5:1ff 7:6ff
II Pet. 2:19

2. The Life of Unbelief is Empty.

3. The Unbeliever is Unable to Rescue Himself From the Vanity of Sin. Rom. 8:6- 8

4. Many Have Fallen Into Despair.

5. If You have not Yet been Converted, you are still a Slave Living in Futility!

III. You Have Been Converted Through the Knowledge of Christ. v. 20- 24 Rom. 6:1- 11

A. You Have Joined the School of Christ. v. 20- 21 John 17:3

1. He is the Subject. v. 20

- a. Christianity is not merely a set of rules for self improvement.
Christianity is knowing Christ personally.
- b. Christianity is not a mere feeling/experience.
Becoming a Christian Involves Embracing the whole truth about Christ.

2. He is the Teacher. v. 21a John 10:27
How do you hear Christ? 2:17

3. He is the Classroom. v. 21b

4. He Offers the Only Truth Which Overcomes the Blindness, Ignorance and Hardness of the Natural Man. John 14:6 8:12 18:38 I Tim. 2:4

B. You have Stripped Off the Old Man and Put on the New. 22- 24

1. When Did the Putting off and Putting on Take Place? Col.3:9- 10
a. The Old Man was Put to Death at Conversion! v. 22a Rom. 6:6
b. At the Same Time you put on the new man. v. 24 Rom. 6:4- 5
c. BC and AD.

2. You Can't Successfully Take Off the Old Man Without Putting On the New.

C. Since Conversion has Already Taken Place, What are You Responsible to Do?
Remember Who You Are! v. 22- 24

1. No Longer Live in the Decaying Way of the Old Man, because you have Already Taken him off. v. 22 Rom. 13:14

2. Walk in righteousness and holiness because God has Restored His Image in you by a creative act. v. 24 II Pet. 1:4 II Cor. 5:17

3. Your Inner Self is Continually Being Renewed. v. 23 Rom. 12:2 I Cor. 2:12- 14
a. Conversion is a change from within.
b. This is an Ongoing Process.
c. There is Both an Active and a Passive Side to this Renewal. Phil. 2:12- 13

IV. Conclusion. Ezek. 36:26 Gal. 2:20