

Light Brings Salt

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Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God
"Sanctify them in the truth: Your word is truth."



The New man in Christ!

Pastor John Griffith

Something that we need to remember is that if you're not learning, taking in the Word of God regularly, and being changed in the way you think, in what you believe, you can forget about the way you conduct yourself.

That is because if you're without BD, truth, your conduct will be nothing but human good and legalism, you will be responding to some external standard, you will do or not do some things because of a perception that, well, Christians just don't do those things, not because you're convinced in your own mind that it is or isn't the right thing to do because that's what the Word of God teaches and it is your desire to honor and please your Savior.

We have in Romans 13:14 a very interesting exhortation to put on the new man. In the context he's addressing believers therefore what is talking about when he says put on the new man? Aren't we already as believers new creations, "a new man" in Christ positionally. The answer is absolutely!

What Paul is dealing with here is experientially day by day advancing in our understanding of the viewpoint and understanding of truth.

This phrase in Rom. 13:14 "put on the new man" is an imperatival infinitive therefore expressing a command. Since it's in the middle voice it says it's to our advantage as believers to put on the new man.

The word "new" is *καλινός* which stresses something new not in time but in quality and character.

The character of the new self is not a refurbished or re-polished old self at all.

What are we as believers? New creations? or new fabrications? Eph 2:10; 2 Cor 5:17

This new man is said to have been created in the likeness of God Eph 4:24. The word for created is *κτίζω* which speaks of a creative act and in NT it always is used with God as subject!

This brings into view the positional aspects of salvation, all that God does for and gives to the believer at salvation.

This creation of God is according to His essential qualities! That is His "righteousness and holiness." God is perfect righteousness and holiness.

This +R and holiness are perfectly and completely manifested in Christ. As we put on the new man, we are to reflect the righteousness and holiness which Paul says is "of the truth."

Paul summarizes the CWOL in Rom. 13:14 where he commands us to put on the Lord Jesus Christ!

Rom. 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

Here Paul gives the **how** of the exhortation in vs:13 to walk properly as in the day. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ,

"Put on" is an imperative; middle voice, which reminds us that it's to your advantage to put on Christ.

The word is *ἐνδύω* [aor mid imp.] lit. means to put on clothes; to cloth ourselves; used here

metaphorically to command us to put on Christ. Now what does that mean?

We are to put on the character of Christ; we are to reflect His virtues in our lives. Just as clothes are very visible so also when we are clothed with the character of Christ.

We're positionally identified with Christ, have all the resources necessary, now Paul exhorts us to be experientially identified with Him. Live up to that position!

That means to live in conformity with His mind, vpt., His will Rom 12:2 said another way.

"and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts."

make no provision πρόνοια to think before; idea is forethought, foresight; the exhortation here is that it is to your advantage not to put yourself in the midst of something that will test your sin nature. Think before you jump!

In context of Rom 13 the challenge is to be motivated today in light of our future in Christ!

How do we accomplish the putting on? How did we find that Christ dwells within the believer? "through faith" Eph 3:17 that is through the word of God so that we have the wisdom and understanding we need.

We have the same thrust in both passages Rom 13:14 and Eph 4:24. As we put on the new clothes of a new mind set, a mind set that is being constantly renewed to DVPT, it results in, Paul says in this context, a changed lifestyle that reflects the character of Christ.

Point is that we are to be in practice what we are positionally as believers.

That's what Paul is trying to get across to us here and he is going to give us the info, the truth we need to know to be able to make the right choices to make this happen.

Some summary thoughts that flow from this context:

The Christian lifestyle cannot be lived out by those with a pagan mindset. It is the Christian mindset which works itself out in our conduct

which is consistent with our calling in Christ. There are some clear inferences flowing from Paul's teaching in this text and its implications in our practical daily living.

Our pagan culture believes that the past is the key to the present. What we think and how we act, we are told, is the result of our past. It is only by understanding our past that we can live as we should in the present. In other words, the past controls the present.

The Bible totally reverses this. Paul teaches us that our thinking and conduct in the past was the outworking of our unregenerate thinking, which was futile, being darkened in our understanding.

Paul insists that we refuse to allow our past to control us in the present. Instead, Paul's emphasis is for us to fully realize that what we now are, in Christ, is what should override and overrule our past thinking and behavior.

What we now are in Christ should motivate us to put away what we once thought and did as unbelievers. Our past should not be resurrected, analyzed and dwelled upon, Forgetting the things that are behind and reaching out for the things that are ahead.

It is not what we were that matters, but what we are now in Christ.

In our culture today, what you believe seems to have taken second place to how you feel. It seems that the sensitive, intelligent, and probing thing to ask these days is, "How do you feel about that?"

Paul would rather have us focus on what we believe. What we feel is often a far cry from what is true, and even from what we believe. Faith, as I understand it, calls upon men to act on the truth God has revealed in His Word, not on how we feel.

Abraham did not "feel" like leaving his homeland and relatives to go to an unnamed place, but he obeyed God. Neither did he feel like offering up his son, Isaac, but he was willing to obey.

Our Lord did not feel like going to the cross of Calvary, but He obeyed the will of His Father. Let us act on what we know to be the truth as revealed in the Word of God, more than on how we happen

to feel. Faith then acts on the facts of God's Word (object) and disregards our feelings/emotions.

Emotions are never a basis of perceiving reality or the basis for making decisions.

News note

Global Warming Activists and what they have in store for us

There is a small group of leftists meeting in Bali, Indonesia that want to force wealth redistribution from the United States to other countries by taxing the United States for its so-called contribution to greenhouse gas emissions that cause the yet to be proven man-made global warming. Led by the shrill voice of Nobel Prize winning global warming fanatic Al Gore, these one-world order communists are seeking to back door to a massive global wealth redistribution program at the expense of the American taxpayer. They are demanding that so-called greenhouse gases be reduced in a range of 25-45 percent over the next 12 years and just to help things along they want the biggest polluters to pay a global tax.

The European Union contingency is pressing this notion in tandem with Al Gore, who has turned on his country by accusing the Bush Administration and the United States of obstructing progress of these stringent guidelines leftists are promoting to save the planet. In reality, there is no real intent on saving the planet among these shrill do-gooders. Their true and unpublished intent is to begin to create a one-world tax system where money from successful countries like the United States will be redistributed and used to control populations around the world—a giant leap forward toward an oppressive one world government.

The concept is that a greenhouse gas tax would be levied at countries who do the most polluting. The money ostensibly would be used to develop global alternative fuel resources, but in reality global taxes are tremendous wealth redistribution programs pouring money down the endless black hole of ambiguous social programs to end world poverty, ensure the correct schooling for all children, reverse the spread of disease such as HIV/AIDS and other programs. The Global Policy Forum, a consultant to the United Nations, says that carbon emission taxes

are just one way to levy global taxes to “address serious global problems while at the same time raising revenue for development.”

A global tax forced upon U.S. citizens is unconstitutional as it subjects U.S. sovereignty to another ruling body. Not one penny of American tax dollars should ever be given to a global body, even though U.S. taxpayers already fund the United Nations. Humans are charged by their Creator to respect the creation to be good stewards of the earth, but we are not to be deceived by godless powers who wish to enslave the world population to a global government. There is a promise from God that dispels the fear mongering of global warming doomsayers. The Lord says in Genesis 8:22, “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” Who do you believe? Al Gore or the Creator?

Your 20-Watt Brain

Psalm 119:11 “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.”

Picture in your mind the sight and sounds of popcorn popping. As you picture the popping becoming more frantic as the popper fills up, do you begin to smell the popcorn? That's part of the wonder of the brain. The brain can not only store words and ideas, but sights, sounds and even smells.

The average person's memory is able to retain about 100 billion bits of information - the information found in 500 sets of encyclopedias. But, to use computer language, the brain is not only a place where information is stored, it is also an information processor. Yet, it only weighs a little less than four pounds and uses about 20 watts of energy. Our most sophisticated modern computers don't even begin to approach such efficiency.

Research has shown that the more you use part of your brain, the larger that part becomes - just like building muscles. And if you don't use part of your brain, it starts shrinking. Few of us have developed our ability to memorize things to any great extent. But to show you what can be done, in May of 1974 a Burmese man recited, from memory, 16,000 pages from a Buddhist religious text!

What are you doing with that marvelous organ, the brain, that your Creator gave to you? How much of His Word have you stored in your memory as a treasure which can never be taken away?