

L108 | Ephesians | "Walk Not Alienated from the Life of God"

I. Intro/Review:

- The spiritual analysis of the world apart from Christ
- 1. "the vanity of their mind" - the classification
- 2. "having their understanding darkened" - the cause
 - Heart, eye, faith

II. Preview:

- ~~1. The Classification of a Vain Walk~~
 - ~~1. Vanity of their mind~~
2. The Cause of a Vain Walk
 1. Having the understanding darkened
 2. Being Alienated from the Life of God - through the ignorance that is in them
 3. Because of the blindness of their heart
3. The Consequence of a Vain Walk
 1. Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness
 2. To work all uncleanness with greediness.
3. The Consequence of a Vain Walk
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III. Sermon:

**Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:
{Ephesians 4:18}**

1. The Cause of a Vain Walk

1. "Having the understanding darkened"

1. **Logic** - one walks in the vanity of their mind because their "understanding" darkened, its veiled, its covered
 - Pro. 4:19 - "The way of the wicked is as darkness; they know not at what they stumble."
 - To what purpose?, to end?, for what?, why?
 - Two may look at a tree and to one it is a lovely sight, one to behold, but then forgotten, one that takes the breathe away but to perish with one's death - capture the moment and it flees as soon as you think you grasp it

- The other, looks with understanding, and praises the Creator, seeks to know Him, learns of that which is greater than all trees is their Maker and see all things comprehended in Jesus Christ.
- One looks at a problem in the relationship and concludes it is the others fault, it is his/her parents fault, yes - may the world bend its knee to me that they are all my problem.
 - Yet, the other looks and says, "I am the problem - me and my sin and my selfishness that I am so unknowingly bent to. Ah but yes, others do offend, but I understand because I understand I am a sinner. Justice is they deserve eternal torment, oh but I do too! Love commended to me in Christ, love commended toward my offender in Christ, therefore love from me." - This is understanding - yet you will have none of it in the world - they are lousy, spiritual sick with themselves, never taking sides against themselves - what a sore travail, what a vanity of vanities! From head to foot they are in the dark, in their mind and therefore their walk.

2. **Define** - the way of thinking and feeling

- "mind" of v17 and now "understanding" nearly interchangeable
- "mind" in v17 more comprehensive, considers the whole
- "understanding" the way in which the "mind" works is darkened

3. **Contrast** - understanding

- Eph. 1:18 - "eyes of understanding enlightened"
- Col. 1:9 - "...spiritual understanding"
- Col. 2:1-3 - "...all riches of the full assurance of understanding"

4. **"darkened"**

- To cover - veiled
- Isa. 25:7 - "And He will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations."
 - Israel
 - Gentiles
- Gentiles
 - Acts 26:18 - "to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."
 - Rom. 1
 - 2 Cor. 4:1-4 - "...god of this world, blinds the minds of them that believe not"
- Israel

- Matt. 4:12-16 (Isa. 9:1-2)
- Jn. 1:1-5 (life, light of men), 6-14 (Life, light of men)
- Jn. 8:12 - I am the light of the world
- Jn 12:46
- Matt. 6:23 - darkness be light, how great that darkness
- 2 Cor. 3

5. They walk in the vanity of their mind, because their understanding although operational it operates in the dark.

2. "Being Alienated from the Life of God - through the ignorance that is in them"

1. Logic

- They walk in the vanity of their mind, because their understanding is darkened, their understanding is darkened because they are alienated from the life of God.
- If they had access to the life of God their understanding could be enlightened that they may walk in good works.

2. Define - alienated

- Be estranged, a non-participant, to shut off from intimacy and fellowship
- Eph. 2:12 - "being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel"
- Eph. 4:18
- Col. 1:21 - "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled"
 - Eph. 2:1-3 - walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air

3. "ignorance" -

- Acts 17:30 - "the times of this ignorance..."
- 1 Pet. 1:14 - "...former lusts in your ignorance"
- Lack of knowledge
- Need of knowledge - the knowledge of the truth
 - Sin, self
 - Christ, righteousness
 - Flesh, Spirit
 - Law, Grace

3. "Because of the blindness of their heart"

1. Logic - They walk in the vanity of their mind because their understanding is covered with darkness, and their understanding is darkened because they don't know better and their heart (their love and affection for that which isn't the life of God) blinds them to the life of God!

2. Define - "blindness"

- Dulled perception - hardness, callous
- Mar. 3:5
- Matt. 15:14 - "...blind leaders of the blind..."
- Matt. 23:16, 17, 19, 24, 26 - "blind...guides"
- Jn. 9:1-41

**Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.
{Ephesians 4:19}**

3. The Consequence of a Vain Walk

1. Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness
 1. "past feeling"
 - Become apathetic
 - Feeling or showing a lack of interest or concern; indifferent
 - So taken, so in love with pleasures they give themselves over
 - Makes the heart cold to love, compassion, tenderheartedness
 - So into self that it is past them to help, give, sacrifice
 - "I am so over this"; "I am so past this"
 2. "have given themselves over unto lasciviousness"
 - The full embrace
 - Romans 1
2. To work all uncleanness with greediness.
 1. "to work"
 2. "all uncleanness with greediness"
 - The evolution of mankind

IV. Conclusion: