

GREATER BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

Dr. Brett Snowden, Pastor

“Investing in the Kingdom of God, by Sowing Seeds for the Savior” – Matthew 13:24

Theme: REIMAGINING THE KINGDOM

Lesson: **A Lifestyle that Honors God**

Scripture: Ephesians 4:17 – 32

June 28, 2022

- I. We are called to live by **obedience** to the Word of God. We must learn to **evaluate** everything by the **wisdom** found in God's Word. **Cf. 2 Corinthians 10:5**
- a. As Christians, we are called to a **lifestyle that honors God**. We are not called to live like the world.
 - b. Paul exhorts us *“to walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk”*. (v.17)
 - c. Paul uses the word **“gentile”** to refer to **unbelievers**. In other words, we are not to blend in with the world.
 - d. Our lifestyle should **honor God**, not reflect the values of our age. **Cf. Romans 12:2**
- II. **The Case for Upright Living (v. 17-24)**
- a. We must assume **personal responsibility** to allow Christ to live through us.
 - b. We can either **cooperate** with the Holy Spirit or resist and reject.
 - c. Vs. 17 – Don't go back to the way you used to live.
 - d. Vs. 18 – People who have not been **enlightened** by the Holy Spirit are **incapable** of understanding the truth.
 - i. The nature of this **world** is that it is **excluded** from the life of God.
 - ii. Ignorance – lack of **knowledge** and **experience**
 - iii. Hardness of their hearts – in a medical sense it refers to stiff joints, as in arthritis
 - e. Vs. 19 – Failure to follow God means one can become insensitive to God.
 - i. Sensuality - Every sin, which was unthinkable even a few years ago, is now being promoted as if it is normal.

- f. Vs. 20 - We are called to reject this lifestyle because we did not learn Christ in this way.
- g. Vs. 21 - Christ teaches us the truth. It is the truth about **ourselves, others, the world, life, death, eternity, and how to live.** And He teaches us the requirements of truth.
- h. Three requirements of truth – vs. 22, vs. 23 and vs. 24

III. The Character for Upright Living (v. 25-32)

- a. He contrasts the way we used to be with the way we should be.
 - i. Vs. 25 - Lying vs. Truth-Telling
 - ii. Vss. 26-27 - Sinful vs. Allowable Anger
 - iii. Vs. 28 - Stealing vs. Sharing Abundance
 - iv. Vs. 29 - Decayed vs. Edifying Speech
 - v. Vs. 30 – do not grieve the Holy Spirit
 - vi. Vs. 31 – The things we say destroys our relationship with one another
 - vii. Vs. 32 – be kind to one another