

**Sunday Morning Sermon**  
**10.13.19 ~ Ephesians 4:18-19, The Mind of the Lost!**

Last week (**Ephesians 4:17**) we studied what it means to not live like Gentiles [unbelievers], in the futility of their thinking. Today we will expand the characteristics of those who continue to live at enmity with God.

Read **Ephesians 4:18-19**... Paul says those who remain ignorant of God's truth become darkened in their minds; captivated by sin, separated from life with God, for their hearts are hardened toward God's truth.

Many Americans today, like the people of ancient Greece, chase after and worship "knowledge." America prides itself on its advancements in science, technology, literature, art, and other achievements of the mind; all the while, the moral fabric of American society decays, as families disintegrate.

I believe most Americans would rather be considered sinful than ignorant, for there tends to be more of a value placed on intelligence than holiness; but in truth, it is the arrogant and ignorant fools of this world who deny that they are sinners, separated from the truth of God and darkened in their understanding concerning God's plan and provision of Christ.

Those who reject the light of God remain darkened in their thinking, and this leads to increased moral and spiritual corruption and disintegration: See **Romans 1:18-32** [c. A.D. 56, near the end of his 3rd missionary journey; **1Timothy 4:1-6** [c. A.D. 63, after his first Roman imprisonment]; **2Timothy 3:1-5** [c. A.D. 67, from Roman prison, shortly before his death]).

The unregenerate [unsaved] person becomes callous toward the truth of God, rejecting God's standards, while being led into a condition of moral and spiritual decay, rendering a person incapable of thinking or doing anything to please God. Those who continually reject God's revelation become depraved (cf. **Titus 1:15-16** [c. A.D. 63, after his first Roman imprisonment]).

Our society, as a whole, suffers the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse, immorality, pornography, homosexuality, greed, bad parenting, etc.; and yet, those who are spiritually and morally calloused, don't seem to care what God says about any of this, and they sure don't care what you or I think; although, they most certainly seek, aggressively, to obtain a forced validation from the culture, so that they might freely live out their degenerate, destructive, and hopeless lives.

Paul wrote about the decline of morality, the decay of society, and the increase of godlessness, in the first century A.D.; 2000 years ago, warning us that those who are at enmity with God are people of depraved minds, and we are not to live as they live (**2Timothy 3:5**), "holding to a form of godliness [appearing religious], although they have denied its power [they are without God's Spirit]. Avoid such men as these."

Paul warns to stay away from these men; Jesus says (cf. **Matthew 7:15-20**), "they come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." Peter

declares (**2Peter 2:10**), “[they] indulge in the flesh in its corrupt desires,” **12**, “like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed.”

Most people will acknowledge some standard of right and wrong; but those who continue denying any guilt for wrong doing while living only to satisfy their own wants and pleasures, will end up with a fried conscience and a frozen heart, for they have become (**Ephesians 4:18-19**), “darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart, and they, having become callous [losing all sensitivity], have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness [i.e., with a continual lust for more].”

When a person gives himself over to self-pleasure as the highest priority, that person becomes calloused, insensitive, incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong, good and evil; ultimately, that person becomes mindless and heartless, driven by urges and cravings, chasing after more and more sensual fulfillment, only to find dissatisfaction, disappointment, sorrow and despair.

That downward spiraling process characterizes every unbeliever, for they are all headed in the same direction, some are just further along than others (**2Timothy 3:12-13**), “All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

Did you know: The largest industry in America today involves pornography, prostitution, X-rated films, and immoral television programming. And these things are done in the open, without any shame; and for the most part, are protected by our legal system, which allows and even supports the freedom of those who openly enjoy or profit from this filth..

Currently, one of the largest demands in the home video market is for the combination of horror mixed with pornography, that is frightening!

Not every unbeliever will reach the extremes that Paul speaks of in **Ephesians 4:18-19**, but they will most definitely try to live according to their own blind and barren thinking, for they are unwilling and therefore unable to consider, let alone to appraise, all of life by the truth and wisdom of God, as expressed in and through Jesus Christ. Why is this so?

**2Corinthians 4:4**, “The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

**Galatians 6:7-10**, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

Solomon, 3000 years ago (**Ecclesiastes 2:24-26**), tells us, "There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God. For who can eat and who can have enjoyment with out Him? For to a person who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, while to the sinner He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give it to one who is good in God's sight."

All who belong to God the Father through Jesus Christ the Son, confirmed by the indwelling presence of God's Holy Spirit, have the Love and Peace of God right now, so that we may serve Him victoriously on the earth, as we wait for Him to bring us into heaven.

**2Peter 1:2-4**, "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust."

**Romans 12:2**, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

How gracious God is to love us unconditionally, to never leave us nor forsake us, and to give us everything we need for life on this earth and for eternity in heaven, through Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Colossians 1:13-16**, "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him."

**Colossians 2:8-10**, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority." **17**, "*Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*" **23-24**, "*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*"

**1Corinthians 15:58**, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord."

*Pastor Mike*  
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