

"Past Feeling"

Eph. 4:17-24

The Will of God

- Our sanctification. **1 Thess. 4:3-5**
- Moral purity & holiness in all our conduct. **1 Pet. 1:13-16; 2:11-12**

2

Beginning Of The Church In Ephesus

- First preaches in Ephesus. **Acts 19:1ff**
- Warnings follow: **Acts 20:28**
- Warnings to Paul: Don't go to Jerusalem! **Acts 20:22; Acts 21:4, 12**
- Severity of persecutions noted: **2 Cor. 1:8ff**
- Imprisoned: Jerusalem, Caesarea, Rome. **Acts 21-28**
- Writes the Ephesians...

Eph. 4:17-24

3

Diana (**Acts 19:24,27-28,34-35**), in Roman mythology, was the goddess of the moon, hunting, wild animals, and virginity. Diana is the same as the Greek goddess Artemis (RSV, NIV, NASB), virgin goddess of the hunt and the moon. When Paul preached in Ephesus, the Ephesians were in an uproar because the gospel threatened to destroy the profit of the artisans who crafted silver shrines of Diana.

(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c)1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)
Asia Minor: Ephesus



4



The Theater at Ephesus was able to seat up to 25,000 spectators. It was here in AD 57 that Demetrius' protest against the Apostle Paul took place in which the Ephesians cried out for two hours, "great is Diana of the Ephesians" (Acts, 19:23). Photo Courtesy of Corel

5

"Past Feeling"! Eph. 4:17-24

apalgeo (ap-alg-eh'-o); from NT:575 and *algeo* (to smart); to grieve out, **i.e. become apathetic:**

(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

to become callous, insensible to pain, apathetic: so those who have become insensible to truth and honor and shame are called "apeelgeekotes" (A.V., past feeling) in Eph 4:19. (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 2000 by Biblesoft)

To grow or become insensible, void of or past feeling. In Eph 4:19 used metaphorically meaning to be insensible to honor or shame. This is the word from which the Eng. "analgesic" is derived, meaning that which takes away pain.

(from The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament © 1992 by AMG International, Inc. Revised Edition, 1993)

Ancient Greece

"In Greece there has never been any shame in relationships before marriage or outside marriage. Demosthenes writes as if it was the merest commonplace, as indeed it was: 'We keep mistresses for pleasure, concubines for the day-to-day needs of the body, but we have wives in order to produce children legitimately and to have a trustworthy guardian of our homes.'" (Barclay, *Flesh & Spirit*, p. 24)

7

Roman Empire

Morality during 1st half of the 2nd century

"...an age when shame seems to have vanished from the earth."

(J. J. Chapman, cited in *Flesh & Spirit*, Barclay, p. 24)

8

Roman Empire

Adultery

"Roman women were married to be divorced & were divorced to be married. Some of them distinguished the years, not by the names of the consuls, but by the names of their husbands." (Seneca, *Ibid.*)

9

Roman Empire

Homosexuality

- Julius Caesar was notoriously the lover of king Nicomedes of Bithynia
- Nero "married" a youth called Sporus & had a marriage procession through the streets of Rome (Barclay, p. 27)

10

Roman Empire

"There was no strong body of opinion against immorality. To the Graeco-Roman world immorality in sexual matters was not immorality; it was established custom and practice." (Barclay, 28)

11

America, 2009

- Same-sex marriage being advanced
- Homosexual acceptance by some churches, in clergy, entertainment, etc.
- Premarital sex is common; adultery is widespread
- Pervasive sexual promiscuity

12

"Past Feeling" Not New!

When God's people are not sensitive to sin.

Isa 5:20; Jer. 6:15; 1 Tim. 4:2; Heb. 3:12-13

"I don't see anything wrong with it." 3

"Past Feeling"!

The Warnings of the Text: Eph. 4:14ff

- Lk. 8:11
- 1 Cor. 9:27; 10:12
- Gal. 4:9; 5:4
- Heb. 3:6,12; 4:1,11; 10:26-29
- 2 Pet. 2:14-15, 20-22
- 1 Tim. 1:19-20; 4:1; 5:8; 6:10, 21
- 2 Tim. 2:18

Why do we become "Past Feeling" to sin & error?

- Lack knowledge, *Hosea 4:6*
 - ◆ Teach...Learn, *Eph. 4:20-21; Heb. 5:12-14*
- Failure to put off the old man of sin, *Eph. 4:17-24; cf. Col. 3:9*
 - ◆ Transform mind, *Eph. 4:23; cf. 2 Cor. 10:5*

Eph. 4:18-19

15

Why do we become "Past Feeling" to sin & error?

- Influence of worldliness, *1 Cor. 15:33 (Prov. 6:27)*
 - ◆ Beware the faithless deceit of sin, *Heb. 3:12-13*
 - ◆ Do not love the world, *1 Jno. 2:15-17*
 - ◆ Do not pitch our tents toward Sodom *Gen. 13:12-13*

Eph. 4:18-19

16

Why do we become "Past Feeling" to sin & error?

- Complacency toward God & His will, *Zeph. 1:12*
 - ◆ Wake up! *Rom. 13:11-12*
- Obstinate rebellion, *Heb. 3:7-11; 10:26-27*
 - ◆ Fear God & obey Him, *Heb. 10:31 (Prov. 1:7; 9:10)*

Eph. 4:18-19

17

Lasciviousness (*aselgeia*)

"unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageous-ness, shamelessness, insolence...wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males & females" (Fritzsche), Rom. 13:13" (Thayer, 79-80)

18

Uncleanness (*akatharsia*)

“in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living ... used of impure motives in **1 Thess. 2:3**” (Thayer, 21)

19

Uncleanness is Inclusive

- Thought, **Gen. 6:5; Prov. 23:7**
- Word, **Eph. 5:3-4**
- Deed, **Eph. 4:19-24 (Text)**
- A greedy, selfish act designed to gratify fleshly lusts through impure means (*cf. Mt. 5:8*)

20

Renew Our Sensitivity Toward Our Dress

- It is Sin, **1 Tim. 2:9-10** (**Prov. 7:10; Jer. 6:15**)
 - ◆ **Modest (*kosmios*):** "Orderly, well-arranged, decent..."
 - ◆ **Shamefastness (*aidos*):** "A sense of shame"
 - ◆ **Sobriety (*sophrosune*) -** "Soundness of mind... sound judgment"

Eph. 4:22-24

21

Renew Our Sensitivity Toward Our Dress

- Applications include public display of...

- ◆ **Revealing clothing**
 - ✦ Dresses, blouses
 - ✦ Shorts
 - ✦ Skin tight clothes

1 Tim. 2:9ff;
1 Pet. 3:1ff

- ◆ **As a guide, cf. Ex. 29:42**

22

Not.... But.... 1 Tim. 2 & 1 Pet. 3

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Not this: Braided hair, gold pearls, costly raiment Not outward – braiding hair, wearing jewels of gold or putting on apparel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ But this: Modest apparel, shamefastness, sobriety. Becometh women professing godliness – good works. Quietness, subjection Chaste behavior, fear Meek and quiet spirit |
|--|--|

23

Not.... But.... 1 Tim. 2 & 1 Pet. 3

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Not this: Braided hair, gold pearls, costly raiment Not outward – braiding hair, wearing jewels of gold or putting on apparel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ But this: Modest apparel, shamefastness, sobriety. Becometh women professing godliness – good works. Quietness, subjection Chaste behavior, fear Meek and quiet spirit |
|--|--|

24

Our clothing sends a message!!!
Prov. 7:10

Renew Our Sensitivity Toward Fornication

- Flee fornication! *1 Cor. 6:18*;
cf. Joseph – Gen. 39:7-12

Eph. 5:3ff;
Rom. 13:11ff

25

Fornication (*porneia*)

- “Illicit sexual intercourse in general” (Thayer, 532) (*Mt. 5:32; 19:9*)
 - ◆ Adultery – *Rom. 7:2-3; Heb. 13:4*
 - ◆ Homosexuality – *Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9 (1 Tim. 1:10); Lev. 20:13*
 - ◆ Bestiality – *Lev. 18:23; Ex. 22:19*

26

Renew Our Sensitivity Toward Profanity

- Euphemisms, *Eph. 4:29*
 - ◆ “the substitution of a mild, indirect, or vague expression for one thought to be offensively blunt or harsh” (Webster’s)

Eph. 4:22-24

27

Such Euphemisms Include...

- Gee; Geez (Jesus)
- Gosh; Golly (God)
- Lordy (Oh, Lord)
- Heck (h_ll)
- Blue blazes (slang for h_ll)
- Darn; Dang (to curse, da_n)
- Shoot (sh_t)
- Dog gone (God da_n)

Ephesians 4:22-24;
James 3

28

Our Speech Should Be...

- Sound, *Tit. 2:8*
- Gracious & seasoned, *Col. 4:6*
- Truth in love, *Eph. 4:15, 25*
- Plain; bold, *2 Cor. 3:12; 7:4; Eph. 6:19ff*
- As the words of God, *1 Pet. 4:11*

29

Renew Our Sensitivity Toward Truth and Error

- Endure sound doctrine, *2 Tim. 4:3-4*
 - ◆ “Truth is relative”
 - ◆ “Nobody agrees on everything”
 - ◆ “Everybody does some things without Bible authority”
 - ◆ “Stop judging others”

2 Tim. 1:13
Gal. 1:6-10
2 Jno. 9-11
Rom. 16:17

30

Renew Our Sensitivity Toward Lost Souls

- Try to save some, *Mt. 9:36-38*
 - ◆ Conscious (He "saw" them)
 - ◆ Compassion (moved Him)
 - ◆ Commitment (toward them)
- We must properly value lost souls, *Mt. 16:26*

31

"Past Feeling"!

When we become "*Past Feeling*" to sin & error we will certainly lose our souls! *Jno. 17:14-19*

Eph. 4:22-24

15