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PUT ON THE NEW MAN

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
NUMBER 45
EPHESIANS 4:22-26

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EPHESIANS 4:22-26 "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:"

In verse 22 we studied the old sin nature and how we are, by rebound, to stay in fellowship with God every day. Then in verse 23 we studied soul-breathing. Every day we breathe in truth which makes it possible for us to breathe out faith toward God. The only way to off-set the build up of scar tissue in the soul is to be filled with the Holy Spirit through the inhale of Bible truth. In this way we are able to construct the edification complex in the soul. Verse 23 speaks of "the breathing of your mind." Now in verse 24 we come to the expression "Put on the new man."

PUT ON THE NEW MAN

I have never heard an accurate explanation of what it means to "put on the new man." Many fundamentalist ministers say that you have an old man in you and a new man in you. They describe the battle that goes on between these two forces within. In this study we will attempt to show what the new man is and how we are to put on the new man. Putting on the new man means to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Putting on the new man means to erect an edification complex in the soul. Then in the remainder of this chapter we are given some of the results which come from putting on the new man. One result not mentioned here is the result we call spiritual perception. How can I know the will of God for my life? How will I know when I meet the right person to be my life partner? Answer: If you put off the old man and put on the new man, then from the erected edification complex in your soul, God will begin to flash signals to your mind and the will of God will become clearer and clearer to you day by day until you will arrive at the point of absolute certainty.

JOHN 7:17 "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."

EPHESIANS 4:23 "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;" "And" is the particle "de" and it is a conjunction of contrast. It shows that the putting on the new man is a contrast to the putting off of the old man. "Be renewed" is "ananeo." "Ana" means again and again and again. "Neco" means to make new, to restore. Here it means to start breathing again spiritually. Just like you take in oxygen into your lungs so you can live physically, this verse says you must breathe in spiritual oxygen if you are to live spiritually. This verse says that you must restore spiritual breathing if you are to answer the problem of scar tissue in the soul. The only way to eliminate this scar tissue is to breathe in Bible truth every day and this is the way you are

to put on the new man. You must know doctrine so you can apply it in your daily living. But more important than this is the residual doctrine left in your mind for it is from this residual doctrine, this inner supply in the mind and soul, this accumulated store of spiritual strength, that makes possible your daily growth. This is the way the Christian eventually becomes a Christ-like person.

SATAN'S MAJOR ATTACK

One of the major ways Satan attacks the Christian is to discourage the study of Bible doctrine. He says, "Don't learn too much doctrine. You already know now more than you are able to apply. Don't learn more doctrine until you apply what you already know." There is not a greater falsehood in the earth that comes from the devil than this falsehood. They keep emphasizing the application of what you already know and they call you a stagnant lake taking in more than you are putting out. They have all kinds of little cliches like that in order to keep people away from Bible class. But remember "RESIDUAL DOCTRINE STORED IN THE SOUL IS THE ONLY BASIS FOR BUILDING AN EDIFICATION COMPLEX." The thing that makes you a victorious Christian is not the Bible doctrine you happen to be applying at any given moment. The residual doctrine in your mind guarantees that scar tissue will not build up in your soul and this residual doctrine orients you to the grace of God and the plan of God. This is the real foundation of the Christian life. This residual doctrine is doctrine in your mind that up to now you have not applied. This is the doctrine that stays behind and is on tap ready to be used when needed. From this residual doctrine you build character and stability and a relaxed mental attitude. This is the way faith is built and faith cannot grow apart from this process.

GALATIANS 2:16 "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

I could fervently wish that every member of Immanuel would memorize this verse and live by it. The edification complex is a grace process all the way. Inner happiness and a relaxed mental attitude and a capacity to love and the mastery of the details of life are all grace accomplishments. No human being arrives at these goals by human effort or human achievement. The only way you can put Christ first in your mind and soul is by the build-up of residual doctrine. It is like having a full tank of gas all the time. As fast as you use out the gas, the tank is filled up again by the residue you have in your mind. So daily inhale of Bible truth is an absolute necessity.

Residual doctrine will give you discernment. It will give you spiritual perception. It will make plain the will of God to you and there is absolutely no other way whereby you may know the will of God. The way to reach this goal is by "the breathing of your mind." "Pneuma" is the word used here for "spirit" and it means "Holy air", it means "spiritual breathing." This word never means "Holy Ghost" and why many of the translators of the King James Version used this word I do not know. This word "pneuma" is also used for the human spirit. And this word also means breathing. In this verse it means exactly this, the "breathing of your mind." "Nous" is the Greek word translated mind. This refers

to the mentality of the soul. There must be the inhale of truth into the mind. The more truth you breathe in, the better you are equipped to exhale faith toward God. You also can exhale truth toward others. This is also the way to pray and to love and to show forth a matured type of living. Restoration from scar tissue and the daily breathing of your mind is your absolute necessity.

When you think objectively with the mind, it is called "noeo." Then we have certain compounds of this word like "dionoeo" and this means to categorize truth. Then we have "katanoeo" which means categories. "Metanoeo" means to change your mind. Then we have "dokeo" and this means subjective opinion which brings darkness into your soul. The greatest need of every Christian is a storehouse of Bible truth in the mind, so from this storehouse, you can operate every day of your life. The word here translated "renewed" is a passive voice and it means that from Scripture you receive this restoration in your mind.

EPHESIANS 4:24 "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Here we are to meet the new man. The great Bible teacher, Dr. Ironside, used to tell a story to the Indians about how every man had within him two dogs, a big black dog (representing the old sin nature) and a big white dog (representing the new man). Dr. Ironside would tell how these two dogs were always fighting each other. When the Indians would say to Dr. Ironside, "Dr., which dog wins the fight?" The great teacher would say, "The one to whom you say sick'em." Now that makes a good story but it doesn't answer anything.

What is this "new man?" Is it a dog too? No, it isn't. Then what is it? This is an order from God, a command, that we put on the new man. Quite obviously it is not the new birth, for it is commanded to people who have already experienced the new birth. The "new man" is a Pauline word, found here and in Colossians, so we need to know exactly what Paul is talking about here. "That" is used here to introduce a purpose clause. The first "that" was in verse 22 and was used to refer to the old sin nature. This second "that" is a new purpose clause and has to do with something that is stable and has purpose and will afford you a wonderful life as a Christian. So the "new man" is something that you grow and develop after you become a believer. The words "put on" are an aorist, middle infinitive of "apotithemi." The aorist tense here is like a number of dots, and it means that you do this today, and then tomorrow and then the next day and on and on. Keep doing this every day. (Quite obviously it does not refer to salvation, for you don't have to do this every day. Once you are saved you are saved forever.) The middle voice means that you are benefited by doing this. The infinitive says that this is the purpose of God for you to do this.

So this says that we are to clothe the soul with the "New" and the word for new is "Kainos" and it means a new quality, a new species, a new kind of man that did not exist before. This newness in the soul is what is meant here. This new species of soul must have residual doctrine in it. Truth must be fed into the mind and soul every day and nothing else will take the place of this truth. You believe in Christ and at once you are born again. But being born again doesn't mean that you have this new man. You have to put on this new man after you are saved. This new man will become stronger than the old man.

The word for man here is "anthropos" and with the word "kainos" before it, it means a new species of a man, different from the old man. You won't grow two heads or five arms or seven legs. It is referring to a new species of man on the inside.

Now let's get a correct translation of this verse--

"And that you clothe the soul with the new man (The edification complex) according to the standard of God." So beware of that gushing, sincere person who comes along and tells you that you can get too much doctrine that you have become a stagnant lake, taking in and never giving out.

Then this verse goes on to say "is created" and the word is "ktizo" and is an aorist, passive, participle. It means to enter into an intense study of doctrine. The passive voice means that from this intense study you will receive this inner gift of the new man. The participle means this is a law of God and that this principle always operates this way. Back in verse 11 we met the pastor-teacher who is God's instrument to impart this truth to you so you will have the material out of which you can erect this structure in your soul.

Some of you are casualties of Bible doctrine. You started out good but you have fallen by the wayside because someone has persuaded you that you have enough Bible truth. They say to you, "You know now more truth than you live by."

Keeping the Proper Perspective

Let me say it this way. God's blessing on this church doesn't depend on me or you or on our organizations or our program. God's blessing comes from the amazing grace of God which is made plain through his word. The closing phrase of verse 24 brings out this idea. The words "In righteousness" are very revealing. The word "en" is followed by a locative case and means "in the sphere of" and the word for righteousness is "dikaiousune." This is not the regular word for righteousness, but it means grace orientation. If we ever become righteous people, it will be because of the work of God's grace in our hearts.

"True holiness" in English is an adjective modifying a noun. But in Greek it is entirely different. In Greek we have two nouns. The words are "alatheia" the noun for truth. Holiness is also a noun and is from "hosiotes" and it means devotion. So this sentence should be translated "In the sphere of grace orientation and in devotion to doctrine."

Let us end this study with a correct translation of this 24th verse--

"And that (this is a new purpose clause) you clothe the soul with a new species of man (a man with an edification complex in the soul) erected on the basis of soul breathing, which, according to the standard of God, is created (bringing order out of chaos) in the sphere of grace orientation and with devotion to doctrine."