Tread: **A Study in Ephesians – wk 8 A Brand New Wardrobe**

**A spiritual father, apostle of Jesus – in chains. Concerned for the churches he planted… begins to write. This is one of them.**

**Ch 1-2 How to stand - Ch 3-4 How to walk - Ch 5-6 How to run!**

**Last wk – How God gives us spiritual gifts & leadership to help us walk**

**This wk Paul continues the challenge of how to walk w/ Jesus**

**Paul contrasts our old walk with our new walk**

**Ephesians 4:17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live (walk) as the Gentiles do… (as those without God)**

**Called to be different**

**If you are a follower of Jesus, you are called to be / live / walk different.**

**There is a tendency for Christians to try to relay to the world that we are really not so different in an effort to gain respect or approval. Sometimes even compromising our standards.**

**Well guess what? If you are a follower of Jesus, you are different, and called to be diff. Christian you will never truly fit in, in this world :/**

**Ephesians 4:17 …you must no longer live (walk) as the Gentiles do, (those without God) in the futility of their thinking.**

**Futile thinking = chasing the air, lead to nothing.**

**Ecc 1:2 Absolute futility. Everything is futile. 3 What does a man gain for all his efforts that he labors at under the sun? 4 A generation goes and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. / 14 I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.**

**The way the world thinks, sees things, views life, treats life, measures value and success – it all falls short of meaning.**

**We think different - As a follower of Christ**

**Our thinking has shifted - Past thinking and present path**

**Our old way of thinking - Eph 4:18 They (previously some of us) are darkened in their understanding (of God) and separated (alienated) from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening (some trans. – blindness) of their hearts.**

**People who ignorantly seek independence from God – fruit of a hard heart – results in separation from God (Matt 13:14-15)**

**For some, God can be all around you, but still blind to His presence – your heart is hard. – “same sun that hardens clay, softens wax.”**

**4:19 Having lost all sensitivity, (lost all feeling – callous – hardened) they have given themselves over to sensuality (licentious, flaunting - throw off of restraint – no shame) so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, (unclean – lit. bad mixture) and they are full of greed. (can’t get enough)**

**Spiritual blindness results in futile thinking that leads to arrogance and independence towards God, a callous heart, flaunting sin, no shame, led by every desire and wants.**

**The old way of thinking is a chasing of sensual pleasures. Giving of self over to sex outside God’s plan, drugs, alcohol, greed, stingy, unhealthy relationships, etc. –**

**What is your craving? Apart from Christ, we chase futile things leaving us always craving, always hungry, always chasing…**

**That was many of us but in Christ, Paul says, you have a new self**

**4:20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned 21 when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.**

**Jesus in you – a born again life – brings about real change**

**We live different - Past and Preset PATH**

**4:22 You were taught, (or should have been taught or should be taught – the apostles letters were in circulation) with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, (say - take it off) which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, (put it on) created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

**Paul says almost the same thing in Colossians 3 - Walking as a follower of Jesus includes both – a taking it off and a putting it on**

**Changing clothes – Think of a prisoner released from prison, but still wears his prison clothes. You have a new identity! Take that off - Put on some new clothes. Clothes have the ability to change the way you see yourself – new outfits have a way of giving us a new attitude.**

**Paul’s major point – there must be a break from the past.**

**Jesus didn’t come to add to our old life or subtract from our life. The purpose of Jesus is to give us a new life.**

**The Christian life is not head knowledge or knowing facts – but a spiritual transformation that affects the way we see life.**

* **Our spirit affects our thinking (Romans 12:1-2)**
* **Our thinking influences our desires (Col 3:1-17)**
* **Our desires motivate our actions**
* **Our actions bring about blessing or futility**

**This new person is a new creation - 2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!**

**You are so longer a slave to sin – no longer a prisoner to self – but FREE! Walk free – why are you walking in those clothes?**

* **Take off Hoddie**

**Take it off and put it on! What not to wear…**

**Ephesians 4:25 Therefore each of you must put off (take it off) falsehood and (put on) speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.**

1. **Take off dishonesty and put on transparency**

**Old self lies for self-preservation, for esteem, prevent trouble**

**New self speaks truthfully and honestly – motivated by trust**

**And when we do - Eph 4:15 – we speak it in love**

**Tip - Always tell the truth and you never need to remember what you said. Jesus is the TRUTH. Take it off – shirt 1**

**Ephesians 4:26 “In your anger do not sin” (be angry and sin not)**

**This is not about not being angry – Anger is a God given emotion. In God it is a powerful force for good and decision making. A righteous anger saves lives and protects the innocent. Jesus got angry - we should all get angry about injustice!**

**\*\*Anger is a release of energy in defense of something you love.**

**Sinful anger comes from loving the wrong things. The question is, what do you love? Sin and anger are a dangerous mixture.**

**Ephesians 4:26 “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.**

1. **Take off unforgiveness – put on graciousness**

**Old self keeps pain inside and lets it linger and fester**

**New self intentionally seeks to forgive and resolve offense**

**The foothold of the enemy – unforgiveness. When we harbor anger our heart is open for the devil’s work. The enemy has been defeated, but he likes still to attack us in our weak areas.**

**Notice - Unforgiveness is greatly reduced when you have a timetable on it. time limit - don’t hold onto it. Take it off - shirt 2**

**Ephesians 4:28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, (take it off) but must work, (put on) doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.**

1. **Take off selfishness and put on generous**

**Old self only thinks of themselves**

**New self works a job hard to help others in need**

**Selfishness = what I want, what I deserve, determined no matter what**

**Before Christ we looked out for #1 (self) – but now…**

**\*We are created to Work - Why do we work?**

**To reflect God’s work, to do something meaningful, and to share the blessings of its fruit with others.**

**Without these things, work will leave you unfulfilled – this results in feeling that you deserve more. Stealing is not just robbing a bank, it’s cutting corners.**

**Christians should be the best employees – explain.**

**Don’t commute between your spiritual life, and vocational life.**

**Take it off - shirt 3**

**Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome (rotten - spoiled) talk come out of your mouths, (take it off) but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (put it on)**

1. **Take off destructive words and put on constructive words**

**The old self spoke without considering the outcome**

**The news self is thoughtful of our words influence**

**Times when words – changed the atmosphere. Good & bad**

**Take off negativity and words that tear down or spoil – and put on words that are encouragement and build up – put on hope**

**This new life in a new kingdom – has a new language.**

**What are words that build up?**

* **helpful - Life giving – edify – constructive – encouraging**
* **their needs - Timely - the right moment, contributing to need**
* **benefit - Gracious – loving, hope filled, patient words, healing**

**At work, to your wife, husband, to your kids, to your friends, to a stranger, on social media – be life giving, timely, gracious**

**Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

**Grieving the spirit = anytime we (as a Christian) disobeys God**

**This “grieving” results in the conviction of the Holy Spirit**

**Grieving the holy spirit here is related to how we treat others.**

**Take it off - shirt 4**

**31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger (dif word - wrath, payback, vengeance), brawling (fighting) and slander (insults), along with every form of malice. (take it all off) 32 Be (put on) kind and compassionate to one another, (put on) forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

1. **Take off impatience and put on self-control**

**Old self has a short fuse, quick tempered, wanted paybacks**

**New self works hard to help others in need**

**Like a button – your raging. In your car, watching TV, with your family. Listen - The world is angry – just turn on the news. (BTW – just because your offended does not mean you’re right).**

**At the core of a short temper, rage, bitterness, fighting, and insults – is really pride and a control that you don’t have. So, we get mad.**

**A “Peanuts” cartoon shows Linus venting his hostility by throwing rocks into a vacant lot. As he hurls each rock, he shouts, “This is for all the nasty thing they said about George Washington! This is for people who hate little kids! And this is for people who kick dogs! This is for hot summer nights! And this is for cold winter mornings! And this is for lies and broken promises!” Then he turns and asks Charlie Brown, “Do you have any requests?”**

**If only it were that easy to tame our temper! Linus realizes later, throwing rocks is no solution. Neither is pounding a pillow as you think of the person or letting out a scream.**

**Take it off and put on and mercy. Take it off - shirt 5**

**Why is so hard to walk this way – to live pure - Here’s why:**

**THE WALK** - **Galatians 5:16 - Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (we will not indulge the flesh - I want that. How about you?**

**Walk in the Spirit - To recognize the Spirit in you and learn to follow and yield to his influence in our life. HS role is to promote Christ in us, when we walk in Him we look like Jesus**

**THE WAR – Paul then describes an inner war – a battle inside you**

**Galatians 5:17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to (makes war against) the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to (makes war against) the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.**

**There is a battle going on inside between your flesh and the Spirit. The old habits and the new self. Who is getting fed?**

**Twice in this new wardrobe we are told to put on forgiveness**

**Eph 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. (take it all off) 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

**To truly be able to do this we all need a “just as…” moment.**

**\*\* We can only take these off when we do this \*\* First - recognize we are someone who has sinned against others and God – and**

**Second – receive and experience the forgiveness of God ourselves.**

**God continually reaches out to us, makes the first move, and when we are forgiven - does not hold them over our head**

**In Christ - we are given the HS (who reminds us and ripens us)**

**The result (Gal 5 fruit of the Spirit) love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, tenderhearted, goodness, self-control - Free from the burden of feeling like you have to have control. God promises to carry the burden.**

**The only thing you can control and are called to control is - yourself. You cannot control others or circumstance – but you can control how you respond to them.**

**Today something that is a reality for many, the truth is –**

**We don't always live a holy life – struggle w/ sin - some of you think about going back to your old life... struggle to take it off.**

**2 Reasons:**

**1 You're not truly Born Again - You think you're something you are not**

**2 You're immature in that area - you don't understand who you are**

**Maybe you struggle with temptation, pornography, depression, being a good husband, good father, mother, or struggle with consistency in your walk with God?**

**LISTEN - God could not love you more than right now. His love is perfect and without condition.**

**Can you see it? Do you believe it? Do you embrace it? This grace - this love through the HS, empowers you to be who God created you to be.**

**Prayer –**

* **Open my eyes - Give me a heart of flesh**
* **The war inside –**
* **The need to surrender to Jesus.**

**\*\*\*Invite cards – at the door on**

**What’s the difference between religion that tries to be a good person and walking in the new self is?**

**Religion is most born out of an attempt to appease and use God. Reaching out to God to avoid pain, trouble or to get something. We do things, to get things - We give to get. That is religion in action.**

**But our new self is motivated by something different. We don’t do these to avoid suffering or fix our relationship w/ God. We do these things as a result of the love & grace of God we already received.**

**The fundamental distinctive difference is an internal revealed SIGHT!**

**It’s not a prayer – but sight! It’s not raising a hand – but sight! It’s not even baptism – but sight! These are all responses to that sight.**

**\*\*The gospel is not a diving board it’s a pool – JD Greer (author)**

**We treat the good news of Jesus like a onetime jump and we are in. But the diving board is more accurately, faith - and we dive deep into the gospel. Soaking us – changing us – swim in it**

**I am new in him, soaked in his word & Spirit. Ever get out of the pool on a cold day and can’t wait to get back in. You belong there.**

**You will never fully experience God’s love sincerely until you love God freely – otherwise you’ll always be trying to use Him.**

**The reward of this new life is Jesus – not stuff. Do you see it?**

* **A new life – v 20 – the revelation of Jesus Christ**
* **A new knowledge – v21 – the revelation of God’s word**
* **A new attitude – v 23 – the revelation of the Holy Spirit**