

The “Starts and Stops” of Christianity

March 5th & 6th, 2016

Ephesians 4:17-24

God directs us in His Word to both “*walk in a manner worthy of the calling*” and to “*no longer walk as the Gentiles do.*” These are the “Starts and Stops” of Christianity. This tension between the old former life we once lived and our new life in Christ is a daily battle in which every Christian is engaged!

I. The Conflict: *putting off your old self*

- ❖ The old nature vs. the new nature

📖 Romans 7:15-25

- ❖ The old nature’s characteristics

📖 Ephesians 4:18-19

- ♦ Understanding is darkened

Romans 1:21 “For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

- ♦ Alienated from the life of God

Ephesians 2:12 “remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”

- ♦ Ignorant and hardened toward the truth

Romans 10:3 “For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.”

- ♦ Callous and unfeeling consciences

1 Timothy 4:2 “through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,”

- ♦ Personal giving of oneself to sensuality and impurity

2 Corinthians 12:21 “I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality that they have practiced.”

📖 Galatians 5:16-21

II. The Conquest: *putting on the new self*

- ❖ New Life in Christ!

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;”

- ❖ New Victory over sin!

Romans 6:14 “For sin will have no dominion over you, ...”

❖ New Ability to deny the passions of our flesh and yield to the Spirit of God!

Galatians 5:24 “And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

📖 Colossians 3:5-17

♦ Put to death the old life practices. *Ephesians 4:22*

♦ Put on the new life in Christ. *Ephesians 4:24*

❖ New Attitude of Praise and Thanksgiving to God!

Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Endnote:

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