

Out With the Old, In With the New – *Ephesians 4:17-22*

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I. A BRIEF OUTLINE AND REVIEW OF EPHESIANS

Today we're going to be back in Ephesians, so if you would, open up your Bibles to Ephesians chapter 4. Now as we begin I want you to take a close look at the overall layout of what we've studied so far in chapter 4. The apostle Paul was a very organized writer and we've already seen in our study of Ephesians so far some of the beauty and design that the Holy Spirit empowered Paul to layout in this amazing book. From the first three chapters where Paul creates a fireworks display of what God has accomplished in each of us who have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and of all the blessings and gifts and tools that have been provided to each of us, to now in chapter 4 where he begins to provide us with a blueprint of what a walking worthy life will look like when we learn to walk by the Spirit and live as the new creations we now are.

So as we look at the layout of chapter 4, we first see Paul sharing his thesis statement for the rest of the book of Ephesians. In verses 1 to 3 we discover that he is pleading with each of us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling we've received and he also gives us a quick snapshot picture of the essential characteristics that underlie and encompass a walking worthy life, namely humility and gentleness. These three verses set the tone and the direction for everything else Paul will say in the remaining chapters of Ephesians.

Then in verses 4 to 6 Paul outlines the unity of the body of Christ which must be preserved in this walking worthy process and can best be preserved by walking in humility and gentleness toward each other. Next in verses 7 to 16 Paul introduces us to God's growth plan for the unified body of Christ, which involves apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers using the spiritual gifts God has given them to equip the saints for the work of service. It also involves each member using the spiritual gifts they've been given to build each other up and encourage each other on in their growth in Christ. Speaking the truth in love we are each to grow up in all aspects into Christ.

This brings us to where we'll pick up today in verse 17 of chapter 4. Here Paul returns to the walking worthy concept and in verses 17 through 24, he calls us to *go out with the old and in with the new*. He is going to show us today exactly how we can leave our old ways behind and begin to walk as the new creations God has created us to be. Today we'll focus primarily on verses 17 to 22 and then next week we'll delve into verses 23 to 24.

And to whet your appetite for the future beyond that, from verse 25 of chapter 4 through chapter 6 verse 9, Paul will be providing us with an incredibly detailed and practical picture of exactly what a walking worthy life will look like in our day-to-day lives and in the most ordinary experiences we go through every day. The Bible doesn't get any more practical and relevant to day-to-day life than what we're going to discover and study in the remainder of Ephesians. But the challenge will be: will you allow yourself to believe and live the truths that Paul is going to outline for us or will you write it off as impractical or unrealistic or out of touch with the reality of life in the 21st century?

The Bible is really very simple and clear and practical, but we are very skilled at making excuses as to why we can't actually live the way the Bible instructs us to live. So my challenge to each of you is that you don't let Satan guide you into that trap. Instead let your heart simply believe God's Word. Meet God's truth with simple faith and the belief that God can and will give you the strength and power to live a walking worthy life.

As we go through these truths today and in the weeks to come and you find yourself saying, "I could never live that way" or "my problems are too big to leave behind," let those thoughts remind you that you're right; you can't live this way or conquer your problems in your own strength and willpower. The only way we can live a walking worthy life is when we give up our own strength and begin to depend instead on the mighty power of God living inside each of us.

Paul knows this truth well and he ends the book of Ephesians, in chapter 6 verses 10 through 24, reminding us again of this very thing: We can only live a walking worthy life when we are strong in the Lord and walking in the strength of His might, putting on the full armor of God! So buckle your seatbelts because we've got an exciting and practical and life-changing journey ahead of us as we study the rest of Ephesians.

II. INTRODUCTION

Well as we get ready to dive in to Ephesians 4 verses 17 to 24 today, I want to ask a few questions and get a show of hands:

How many of you are into spring cleaning?

How many of you go through your stuff several times a year and purge the clutter and things that are being used anymore? I know my wife is definitely one who does this on a regular basis.

How many of you like to live with clutter and junk piled up everywhere?

How many of you have no problem doing your work even if your desk is completely messy and cluttered?

Well I definitely grew up in a house that probably had a little more clutter and disorganization than Mindy and I have at our house now. Neither of us like clutter and random piles of stuff everywhere and Mindy is quite diligent about keeping the clutter at bay, though it can be a challenge with kids and all the random toys and dollar store items that seem to make their way to our house....Thank you, Grandma!

But there's something about spring cleaning that appeals to all of us I think, even those who don't mind some clutter. I'm particularly bad in the shed, where many things tend to get shoved and not properly put away until the point arrives where you can barely open the door. It always feels so good to finally tackle the organization of the shed and suddenly realize that we actually have a lot of space in there when things are put away properly and when all the junk is disposed. Or even better when Mindy beats me to it and I come home to a clean and organized shed!

Well today Paul is inviting us to a spring cleaning of sorts, where we go out with the old and in with the new. Let's read verses 17 through 24 of Ephesians 4:

17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 being 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; 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. 20 But you did not learn Christ in this way, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

III. THE WALK OF OUR OLD SELF

As we begin to look at verse 17, we first notice that Paul is emphasizing the importance of what he's about to say, similar to what he did in Ephesians 4 verse 1, when he identifies himself as a prisoner of the Lord and implores us or calls us to his side to tell us something very important. Here in verse 17 he says, "***So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord...***" He's not only about to say something personally, but both he and the Lord are affirming it together. And the word translated, "affirm," is a word that was used in legal cases where a witness was brought forward to testify. This is not just Paul's opinion, but it's an important truth from the Lord Himself.

And with the word, "so," Paul is indicating that what he's about to share is a logical conclusion to what he has just been teaching us in Ephesians chapter 4 about walking worthy in unity and growing to maturity in Christ. In light of what Paul has just taught us, he urges us to "***walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk...***"

Now the word, "Gentiles," here can be confusing because I would say that the vast majority of the people in this room are Gentiles. How many Jews do we have here? Well the word translated Gentiles here is actually the Greek word, "*ethnos*," which really just means the nations or the people groups or those in the world who don't know the one true God. And in fact every person in this room was once a part of that group. This is us before Christ as we were previously described in Ephesians in chapter 2 verses 1 to 3:

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

This is our old self and Paul is calling us to leave this old self behind. As I was thinking about this, I looked around in Scripture and compiled a really clear picture of what our old self looks like. We see a good description and overview in verses 17 to 19 of Ephesians, but there's actually a lot more in the Bible about what our old self really looks like. And let's just say it's not a pretty picture. It's a picture of what life looks like when we try to be in charge and when God is left out of the picture...when we try to find our fulfillment and meaning in anything but God.

So let me paint a really ugly picture for you right now, but a picture of what we see around us every day in the world and what we each used to be ourselves. Now of course every person who doesn't know Christ doesn't participate in every single thing that is going to be described in this picture of our old self. In fact each of us probably knows some people who don't know Christ who seem to be pretty nice people and have some sense of morals and try to do good things. Before we came to Christ we may have been pretty decent people compared to the world around us. But for each person who doesn't know Christ there will be a significant number of things in this picture that do apply to their lives, even if we may not see it in the image they project to others.

I share this picture today so that we can get a clear idea in our minds of what Paul is calling us to leave behind, and so that we can realize that when we are participating in any of these things, we are allowing our old self to rise up and draw us away from God's will in our lives.

So let's first look at how Ephesians 4:17-26 describes the walk of people who don't know Christ, and also the walk of our old self:

- 1) **They are walking in the futility of their mind.** This futility can be compared to striving after the wind: chasing after something that can never be caught. This futility indicates emptiness as to results: setting goals and working to achieve them but ending up with nothing but emptiness and disappointment.
- 2) **They are darkened in their understanding.** They're walking around trying to figure things out in the darkness and shadows and yet claiming they've come to a clear and rational explanation of the world around them and how it operates. And Paul says that is why they are walking in futility. Instead of letting the darkness create humility inside of them and a reaching out for the One who holds the light, they confidently assert that they understand the vast scheme of life and have achieved an understanding of how the universe operates without any need for God.
- 3) **They are excluded from the LIFE of God.** They are dead in sin and missing out on the abundant and fulfilling life and eternity that is offered through Christ. We'll talk more about the significance of this life God offers in a few minutes.
- 4) **They are ignorant.** They are uneducated and unversed in how life really operates and of the unchanging principles and truths that God has woven into the fabric of all of life. And this word translated, "ignorant," includes the idea of "willful blindness." This blindness and ignorance is intentional and people bear a responsibility for it.
- 5) **They are hard of heart.** Their heart is covered with a callous. The sensitivity of their youth and the ability to trust has faded away...they are numb...the pain and suffering and disappointment that has resulted from their choice to ignore the clear evidences of God all around them, has left them hard and callous and desperately searching for anything that will give them pleasure and ease the pain. And Paul tells us that it is because of their ignorance and their hardness of heart that they are excluded from the

life of God. This willful blindness and calloused heart stands in the way of them trusting in and experiencing the abundant life God offers through Christ.

- 6) **They are given over to sensuality.** They have given themselves over to the pursuit of pleasure and stimulation and anything that promises to meet their needs or at least numb the pain and emptiness for awhile.
- 7) **They are practicing every kind of impurity with an insatiable appetite.** They're pursuing anything but God in order to fill the emptiness. In fact, their trying all the things God has said are wrong and destructive and doing it with greediness and a desperate hunger for more. And though they may experience some temporary pleasure, they are left empty and dark and hopeless.

So that's the picture we get from Paul here in Ephesians of the walk of the Gentiles and also the walk that each of us used to walk before we came to Christ.

So how do other Scripture passages describe our old self? Let's develop an even more complete picture of the ugliness of life without God:

Ephesians 2:1-3

Being used by Satan and drawn by him into disobedience
Indulging the desires of the flesh
Indulging the desires of the mind
Living under the wrath of God

Ephesians 2:12

Feeling hopeless
Having no relationship or fellowship with God

Philippians 3:17-19

Walking as enemies of the cross of Christ
Headed for destruction
Allowing appetite to be their god
Setting their minds on earthly things

Romans 6:12-14

Allowing sin to reign in their bodies

Presenting the parts of their bodies as slaves to unrighteousness, impurity and lawlessness

Titus 3:3-17

Foolish

Enslaved to lusts and pleasures

Spending their lives in malice and envy

Hating other people

Galatians 5:16-26

Walking in the deeds of the flesh (the old self):

Immorality

Impurity

Sensuality

Idolatry

Sorcery

Hatred

Strife

Jealousy

Outbursts of anger

Disputes

Dissensions

Factions

Envying

Drunkenness

Carousing

Colossians 3:8-17

Wrath

Malice

Slander

Abusive speech

Lying

You remember the show, "What Not To Wear?" Well this picture of our old self shows us what not to wear as new creations in Christ. Paul tells us to lay each of these things aside...to take them off like clothes.

Easier said than done you say. And yes, it is not an easy process, but it's one we're called to nonetheless and one that is possible by the power of the Holy Spirit living inside us. Did you know that your old self has actually been crucified with Christ? Your old self went up on the cross when you accepted Christ as your Savior and Lord, so that your old self and all those old ways of living could be done away with and that you could leave all those old ways behind for good. Jesus Christ has paid the penalty for all those things and God has created within you a new self and new life within you. You don't have to be chained to your old self anymore. Through Christ the chains have been broken!

Look at that phrase in verse 18 describing the state of those living without Christ: **"excluded from the life of God..."** God is Creator. He creates life and He offers abundant life to any who will accept His plan of salvation through Christ alone and His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. Full and overflowing and abounding life is found in God alone and those without Christ are excluded from that life and are living in emptiness and death and hopelessness, whether they realize it or not. This is because death came to all men when Adam and Eve rebelled against God. We were all walking in death before we came to new life in Christ.

Listen carefully to this profound commentary from *Vine's Expository Dictionary* on the connection between death that came from sin and the life God now offers to each of us. It helps answer the question, "Why was it necessary for Christ to die on our behalf?"

"Death came through sin, [Rom 5:12](#), which is rebellion against God. Sin thus involved the forfeiting of the "life." "The life of the flesh is in the blood," [Lev 17:11](#). Therefore the impartation of "life" to the sinner must be by a death caused by the shedding of that element which is the life of the flesh. "It is the blood that maketh atonement by reason of the life" (id., RV). The separation from God caused by the forfeiting of the "life" could be removed only by a sacrifice in which the victim and the offerer became identified. This which was appointed in the typical offerings in Israel received its full accomplishment in

the voluntary sacrifice of Christ. The shedding of the blood in the language of Scripture involves the taking or the giving of the "life." Since Christ had no sins of His own to die for, His death was voluntary and vicarious, [Jhn 10:15](#) with [Isa 53:5](#), 10, 12; [2Cr 5:21](#). In His sacrifice He endured the Divine judgment due to man's sin. By this means the believer becomes identified with Him in His deathless "life," through His resurrection, and enjoys conscious and eternal fellowship with God."

The wages of sin is death and each of us is born into that sin and death and separation from our Creator. And where is the life in the human body? It's in our blood. When our heart stops working and stops pumping blood, we're done. The life is in the blood. So in order to give each of us the opportunity to be restored to true life and wake up from walking around as dead men, the blood or the life of a perfect sacrifice was necessary. Jesus Christ fulfilled the law and had no sins of His own to die for. He thus became worthy of voluntarily offering up His life and blood to pay the penalty that each of us deserves and make a way for us to be restored to abundant life and fellowship and communion with God.

In verse 18 I want you to also notice that those without Christ are excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them. I just talked briefly about how the word translated, "ignorance," includes the idea of willful blindness. Sometimes we just think people are innocently confused and blind and that they're not actively involved in contributing to the blindness and confusion. But the Bible paints a different picture, not only here in Ephesians, but also very powerfully in the book of Romans, chapter 1 verses 18 to 32. We won't take time to read that right now, but I'm sure it's a very familiar passage to most of you. It paints a picture of people actively suppressing the truth and trying to cover up the obvious evidences of God that are all around us in the universe. And don't we see that all the time when interacting with the world around us?

And think about it: aren't we all very skilled at rationalizing all kinds of behavior and gradually over time working out a way for us to participate in activities or attitudes that at one point in our lives we could clearly see were wrong and inconsistent with who God is? It's an inherent skill of human beings to be able to justify all kinds of questionable behaviors. Kids are born with it and it's only through the work of God in our lives that we can begin to chip away at that

tendency of our old self to justify ourselves and make excuses and refuse to see or acknowledge our own questionable motives and intentions.

More and more I'm seeing that people are not just innocently deceived, but rather that they are actively working to suppress the truth in order to give them the so called "freedom" to do what they want to do, though they don't usually realize that they're actually signing themselves up for slavery and death. The work of Satan definitely contributes to and inspires this active suppression of the truth, but people have also willingly given themselves over it and are not just innocent bystanders who bear no responsibility.

Several examples of this came just recently for me in conversations that arose over the arrest of Kim Davis in Kentucky for refusing to sign a marriage license for a couple. Now I know there are a wide variety of opinions on how Ms. Davis should have handled that situation, but one thing is clear to me in what happened, and it's that I do respect her commitment to uphold the Word of God and stand by her convictions even if she ended up going to jail for it.

But in the conversations I've had about this issue with people who support gay marriage, I've noticed a clear and intentional twisting of Scripture being used by these people to try to convince me and other people that the Bible doesn't call homosexuality a sin and that we're just being judgmental to say it's wrong. And folks, if you have any doubts as to whether the Bible is completely clear on this issue, I have a worksheet I've developed that outlines a very large number of Scriptures that should clear up any doubts you have. We should love and care about people who struggle with homosexuality, but we must not condone it and tell people that it doesn't affect their relationship with God.

In one conversation I had, a person tried to tell me that homosexuality is not wrong because of a passage in Galatians that says, "***There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female...***" So he was arguing that since this verse says there's no longer male nor female, then homosexuality is no longer an issue. I can honestly say I've never heard that one before...But that is the level that some people will go to try to justify behavior that is clearly labeled as wrong in the Word of God. It's called taking a verse out of context.

I tried to gently explain to him that Paul's point in Galatians was not that homosexuality is now okay, but that each person, whether Jew or Greek or male or female is now on equal footing with God and has equal value to Him in Christ.

In another conversation my own brother tried to use Paul's teaching that we are to submit to the governing authorities, to argue that Christians should never be disobeying what we are told to do by the governing authorities, even if it's morally wrong according to Biblical standards. When I shared with him several examples from the Bible where people disobeyed the governing authorities because they were being asked to do things contrary to God's law, and said that when there's a conflict between the governing authorities and God's truth we must follow God's truth, he accused me of picking and choosing what I want to believe from the Bible just like those who want to justify homosexuality are doing.

This is the kind of active suppression of the truth and intentional twisting of Scripture that goes on every day within those who are walking in the way of the Gentiles, in the futility of their minds, darkened in their understanding. Be on your guard. This is the same tactic used by Satan against Jesus when He was tempted in the desert...Trying to twist God's Word to accomplish his evil purposes. Know your Scriptures, my friends! The battle is raging every day and it's only going to become more intense.

IV. THE WALK OF OUR NEW SELF

So I think we've gotten a pretty clear picture here from Scripture of what the walk of the Gentiles looks like. This is the walk Paul is calling us to leave behind forever. Now in verse 20 he begins to lead us into a much better way to walk; the walk of our new self that has been created in Christ at salvation. We're only going to look at this part briefly today, and then next week we'll develop it much more fully.

So in verse 20, Paul first tells us that we did not learn Christ in this way. The way of Christ is the complete opposite of the way of the Gentiles, and Paul is going to give us a deep and thorough understanding of what the way of Christ looks like in the remaining chapters of Ephesians.

The next thing to notice as we look at verses 20 to 24 is that Christ has to be learned. When we come to Christ at salvation, we simply understand that we are sinners that need forgiveness and new life and that Jesus is the only one who can take us there. We don't have any idea what it means to be a Christian and we still have a lot of bad habits and behaviors that up to that moment were fully functional in our lives. We have a lot of things other than Christ that we were trying to find our hope in and a lot of coping methods that are out of step with biblical principles and the teachings of Christ. In short we have a lot of learning to do.

And we need to be careful, because it seems in this passage that it is possible to learn Christ in the wrong way. Paul says, “...***if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him just as truth is in Jesus...***” You see there were some in the early church who were claiming that it's all just about grace and freedom now, and we can just live however we want because we're forgiven and secure. And there was yet another group that was trying to return Christians to living under the Jewish law and claiming we need to keep a list of rules and regulations and constantly work to try and earn God's approval and blessing.

But thankfully the truth that is in Jesus is neither of those. The truth is that we are saved by grace through faith alone in Jesus, and that we do have amazing freedom now and no longer need to live in bondage and slavery either to sin or to keeping a list of rules and regulations in order to earn God's approval. And yet our behavior does matter. Peter instructs us in 1 Peter 2:16 to act as free men, but not to use our freedom as a cover-up for evil. True faith in Christ will lead to a changed life and to a leaving behind of our old self and our old ways. And this is only possible because God has given us His Holy Spirit and the unchanging truths of His Word, and when we know His Word and walk by His Spirit, allowing Him to guide and direct our lives, we no longer need the law to keep us in line.

Paul describes this process well in Galatians 5:16-26:

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity,

sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

You see we have a constant battle going on inside each of us. There is our old self and our old ways trying to coax us into living the way we've always lived and into doing things that are contrary to the will of God. Then there's our new self and the Holy Spirit inside us urging us to follow God's Word and make good choices that are best for us and lead us into deeper relationship and fellowship with Christ. And it's hard to break our old habits and sin patterns and our desire to follow the easy road and the one that sounds most pleasurable and fun and promises immediate gratification. But by the Spirit we can make the right choices and escape the lies that are offered by our old self and the voice of Satan.

Remember, lusts are deceitful. They promise everything, but leave us with nothing. To follow them is to walk in futility and striving after the wind and end up in complete emptiness and disappointment. But what God offers is real and enduring and fulfilling and fits best with who God has designed us to be and leads to healthy relationships and close fellowship with the One who knows and loves us best and is always working for our good.

V. APPLICATION AND CONCLUSION

So let's clean house. Let's get the old junk and clutter out and give up on trying to find fulfillment and meaning and satisfaction in empty things that always leave us disappointed and hopeless.

In verse 22, Paul tell us that if we've learned Christ correctly, this is what needs to happen in our lives:

That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit.

We need to take off our old self like dirty clothes. But instead of throwing them in the washing machine, let's burn them up in a bonfire. Who here would like to hold on to or go back to hatred, emptiness, lying, fighting, alcoholism, adultery, jealousy, slandering people, or walking around in darkness and confusion? Have any of these things been able to bring satisfaction and fulfillment and peace in your life? Have any of these things led to meaningful and healthy relationships? Have any of these things furthered your relationship with God?

Paul tells us that it is possible to take our old self off like clothes, so let's believe him. Let's ask the Holy Spirit now and in every choice we make to enable us to take off those old clothes and put on beautiful new ones...to put on our new self that God has created in righteousness and holiness. If you've accepted Christ as your Savior, your new self exists and is ready to be put on like clothes. Isn't that an encouraging truth. Next week, Lord willing, in our continued study of Ephesians, we're going to pick up in verse 23 and look at the process of being renewed in the spirit of our minds and what the Bible teaches us about how we actually go about putting on our new self.

Now I know they're could be someone here today who doesn't have a new self to put on because you've never taken that crucial step of accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Or maybe you're someone who said the words sometime in the distant past, but it never sunk into your heart and your life has never changed. Maybe you're still stuck in the old self, continuing to walk in the way of the world.

If that's where you are, I want to give you the opportunity today to have your new self created right now in righteousness and holiness. I want to give you the opportunity to move out from being under God's wrath, to becoming His own beloved child...a new creation ready to walk in freedom from your old self and the mistakes you've made in the past.

We're going to celebrate communion today, which is a ceremony of remembrance where we remember what Christ accomplished on the cross and the new life and forgiveness He brought to any who would admit they are a sinner and need the salvation and forgiveness and new life He offers. The Bible is clear that only those who have accepted Christ as their Savior and Lord are to participate in communion. So if you're here today and are not yet ready to take that step, please don't partake of the bread and the cup. But if this is your day, and you're ready to jump into Christ and the new life He offers, this could be your first communion.

I'm just going to take a couple minutes right now to read a few verses that clearly state the path to forgiveness and new life in Christ, and then we'll bow our heads and close our eyes and if any of you are ready to go down that path and become a new creation, you can repeat a prayer after me to accept Christ as your Lord and Savior.

The Gospel According to the Scriptures:

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Acts 4:12

[Speaking of Jesus] "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Acts 16:31

They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Romans 10:9-11,13

That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved...for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

A Prayer to Accept God's Free Gift of Salvation

God, I admit that I have sinned against You...
And that I have not lived my life for Your glory...
I turn from that sin right now...
I don't want to live my life that way anymore...
Jesus, I believe that you died on the cross for my sins...
And that you rose from the dead on the third day...
Right now, I put my faith in You alone for my salvation...
Jesus, You are my Lord and my Savior...My life is Yours...
Thank you for forgiving my sins and making me a new creation...
Thank you for coming to live inside me...
Show me how to live the rest of my life in Your love and for Your glory...
Amen.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

If you prayed that prayer today and meant it in your heart, I would love to hear about it and help you get started in your walk with Christ, so please come talk to me.