

“Renewal” – Part III
(The World and the People of God)
May 31, 2009

Scriptures – May 31, 2009

I. Ephesians 4:17-24

A. Exposition

1. “the spirit of...”

“This renewal is based on an act of God’s Spirit powerfully influencing man’s spirit-mental attitude; state of mind, disposition – with respect to God and spiritual reality.” (Hendricksen)

- a. It is framed in humility. (Phil. 2:5-8; 1 Corinth. 13:4-7)
- b. It is evident by teachability. (James 4:6-10)

2. “renewed in the spirit of your mind”

“This renewal or transformation of the mind is a process in which believers begin to think in new and right ways as they meditate on the truth of God’s Word” (ESV Study Bible).

- a. The basis is the Word of God.
 - (1) explicit and absolute truths
 - (2) implicit principles to be applied with wisdom, prudence and care
- b. The focus is truth found in Christ alone. (vv20, 21)

“To learn Christ is more than to learn about Christ”...it is to...“welcome this Christ into (your) heart and by constant and systematic attention upon the means of grace, by prayer and answers to prayer, by daily living in accordance with the principles of the truth of the gospel, (you learn) Christ.” (Hendricksen)
- c. It touches every part of our nature and our lives.
 - (1) our mind (Romans 12:2)
 - (2) our will (James 4:7)
 - (3) our emotions (Col. 3:1, 2 – NIV)

B. Points of Summary

C. Points of Application

- 1. Periodic and objective check-ups (2 Corinth. 10:4)
 - a. ideas that contradict Scripture
 - b. sinful attitudes
 - c. destructive patterns of behavior
- 2. Purpose to read, study, and understand Scripture.

- 3. Take advantage of God’s gifts to the Church.

Phil 2:5-8

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

1 Cor 13:4-7

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

James 4:6-10

6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Rom 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

James 4:7

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Col 3:1-2

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

2 Cor 10:4

...for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

From the Westminster Confession of Faith I, 6

The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, mans’ salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture...there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the Church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature, and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.