

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY, ~ WE FINISH UP THIS NEXT PARAGRAPH OF EPHESIANS, ~ 5:8-14.

▶▶ As we know, ~ Paul's main point in this paragraph, ~ as we saw in [verse 8a](#) a few weeks ago, ~ is that believers are new creations in Christ.

▷▷ The old ~ [i.e., ~ the person we were before salvation] ~ has passed away; ~ behold, ~ the new ~ [i.e., ~ the new person Jesus has made us into] ~ has come.

▷▷ The Lord has caused a radical transformation to take place. ~ We "were formerly darkness, ~ but now ~ [we] are light in the Lord.

↪↪ And that, ~ as we noted, ~ calls for a new lifestyle ~ that is as drastically different from our old lifestyle ~ as the brightest day is from the darkest night.

▶▶ In [verses 8b-11](#), ~ which we looked at a couple of weeks ago, ~ Paul built on his main point, ~ by showing us a little of what that radical new lifestyle looks like.

▷▷ It means being guided by our new nature.

▷▷ It means carefully scrutinizing and assessing issues and situations ~ in order to determine and then take the course of action that is pleasing to the Lord.

▷▷ It means not participating in "the unfruitful works of darkness," ~ i.e. ~ sinful behavior.

▷▷ And it means exposing "the unfruitful works of darkness."

▶▶ And today we'll finish up by looking at [verses 12-14](#).

IN VERSE 12, ~ PAUL MAKES A PARENTHETICAL COMMENT GIVING A clarification regarding exposing the works of darkness.

"FOR IT IS SHAMEFUL EVEN TO SPEAK OF THE THINGS THAT THEY ~ [UNBELIEVERS] ~ do in secret."

▶▶ Tech note. ~ "for" not showing cause.

▷▷ Grk. word can be used to introduce brief, ~ explanatory parenthetical clauses. ~ So could read w/o "for" as simply ↯↯ 1/8

▶▶ In [verse 11b](#), ~ Paul said to expose "[the unfruitful works of darkness](#)" for what they are.

▷▷ This, ~ of course, ~ would include verbally doing this through, ~ for example, ~ teaching, ~ discipleship, ~ exhortation, ~ giving counsel, ~ preaching.

▶▶ So in [verse 12](#), ~ Paul can't mean don't talk about these things at all. ~~ That would be quite contradictory.

▷▷ The thought of [verse 12](#) seems to be that though it's disgusting and embarrassing to even talk about these things, ~ they need to be exposed.

▶▶ But also [verse 12](#) might just be a call to not over-talk about them or go into detail.

▷▷ IOW, ~ Paul is saying expose them because that is necessary, ~ but limit how much you talk about them ~ and keep it in general terms. ~~ Don't go into detail/dwell on them.

▷▷ To do so can open the door of temptation to participate in "[the unfruitful](#)"

▷▷ Related to that is the danger that we might unconsciously advertise and promote sin.

▷▷ Furthermore, ~ to go into detail or dwell on "[the unfruitful works of darkness](#)" would cause us to be engaged in speech [that accomplishes no good purposes in other believers' lives](#).

↪↪ Remember our discussion of [5:4](#). ~~ Our words should be geared to accomplish good purposes in others' lives.

↪↪ Recall also from that discussion and our discussion of [4:29](#), ~ when we speak to our fellow believers, ~ [we should always strive to use words that build their confidence, ~ that encourage them in their tasks, ~ ¶¶](#)

→→ that promote their spiritual growth, ~ and that foster goodwill in our local fellowship.

↪↪ Dwelling on/going into detail about "[the unfruitful works of darkness](#)" doesn't do that.

▶▶ So, ~ to recap, ~ in [verse 12](#) Paul clarifies that even though they're disgusting and embarrassing to talk about, ~ "[the unfruitful works of darkness](#)" need to be exposed.

▷▷ But when we do so, ~ we are to speak in general terms and not go into detail or dwell on them. [¶¶ 2/8](#)

NOTICE IN VERSE 12 THAT PAUL SAYS PEOPLE CARRY OUT SINFUL BEHAVIOR "IN secret."

▶▶ Those who commit sin do not want their sins to be brought out into the open.

▷▷ Jn. 3:19-20, ~ "And this is the judgment: ~ the light has come into the world, ~ and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ~ ~ ¶¶

↳↳ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, ~ lest his works should be exposed [i.e., ~ for fear their sins will be exposed]."

▶▶ But here's the thing. ~ People may be able to hide their sins from other people. ~ But nothing can be kept secret from God.

▷▷ Ps. 90:8.

↳↳ "You have set our iniquities before you [i.e. ~ You are aware of our sins], ~ our secret sins in the light of your presence [the point: ~ God even knows about our hidden sins]."

▷▷ Prov. 15:3 says, ~ "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, ~ keeping watch on the evil and the good."

↳↳ "The eyes of the Lord" speak of the omniscience of God.

→→ I.e., ~ "The Lord is watching everywhere, ~ keeping watch on the evil and the good." ~ God knows all that people do, ~ whether it's hidden from view or not.

▷▷ Jer. 23:24, ~ "Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord [Obvious ans.: No]. ~ ~ ¶¶

↳↳ "Do I not fill heaven and earth? ~ [i.e., ~ Am I not everywhere in all heaven and earth?]" ~ declares the Lord."

▷▷ And Heb. 4:13 says, ~ "And no creature is hidden from his sight, ~ but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

↳↳ I.e., ~ He is the one to whom we are accountable ~ and nothing, ~ absolutely nothing, ~ is hidden from Him.

▷▷ Furthermore, ~ concealed sins will be exposed and judged by God. ~ Eccl. 12:14, ~ "For God will bring every deed into judgment, ~ with every secret thing, ~ whether good or evil. ¶¶ 3/8

AFTER HIS PARENTHETICAL COMMENT IN VERSE 12, ~ PAUL GETS BACK ON TRACK IN VERSE 13.

VERSE 13 CONTINUES THE THOUGHT OF VERSE 11b.

▶▶ In [verse 11b](#), ~ as we know, ~ we are told to expose the works of darkness for what they are. ~~ They are sin. ~~ And we are to show that to people. ~~ But, ~ again, ~ no dwell/detail.

▷▷ However, ~ as we observed, ~ the immediate context of [verses 8b-14](#) implies that Paul's focus here ~ is on our radical new lifestyle being a means by which the "the unfruitful works of darkness" are exposed for what they really are.

▷▷ Now, ~ based on what Paul says in [verse 14a](#), ~ which see in a few minutes, ~ Paul's focus here is, ~ I believe, ~ evangelistic in nature.

▷▷ So, ~ how does this work?

↪↪ Perhaps this way: ~~ Because our radical new lifestyle, ~ i.e., ~ our godly lifestyle, ~ will be such a stark contrast to unbelievers' lifestyles, ~ unbelievers will clearly see that what they are doing is sin.

→→ This is most likely because their conscience, ~ to paraphrase Paul in [Rom. 2:15](#), ~ will bear witness, ~ ¶¶

↪↪ i.e., ~ will verify, ~ that "the unfruitful works of darkness" are sin, ~ and accuse them.

↪↪ That this may be the case is verified by Peter in [1 Pet. 4:4](#), ~ NIV, ~ ¶¶

→→ "They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you.

▶▶ To summarize, ~ by living a godly lifestyle, ~ we will expose the true nature of "the unfruitful works of darkness" to unbelievers, ~ and show them that that true nature is sin.

▶▶ With that in mind, ~ let's turn our attention to [verse 13](#). ~~ And as noted, ~ it continues the thought of [verse 11b](#).

▷▷ And it explains why we are to expose "the unfruitful works of darkness." ~~ "But when anything is exposed by the light, ~ it becomes visible."

▷▷ You cannot see things for what they are in the dark. ~~ But the bright light of day reveals what things are really like. ¶¶ 4/8

▷▷ We are to expose "the unfruitful works of darkness," ~ because when they are brought out to the light, ~ their true nature is clearly revealed to those involved in them.

↳↳ And we could add that then unbelievers will be w/o excuse before God

IN VERSE 14a, ~ PAUL INSERTS AN EXPLANATORY COMMENT POINTING OUT what happens when this exposure occurs.

"FOR ANYTHING THAT BECOMES VISIBLE IS LIGHT."

▶▶ Now, ~ admittedly, ~ this is difficult to understand.

▶▶ But Paul seems to be referring to the cleansing or transforming power of light.

▶▶ Since sinful acts themselves cannot be cleansed or transformed, ~ Paul is making the transition here from the acts committed to the people committing them.

▶▶ The thought here seems to be this: ~ ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Exposing the works of darkness through living a godly lifestyle can have a corrective and transformative effect on the persons engaged in those acts.

↳↳ I.e., ~ by observing our godly lifestyle, ~ some will turn from the darkness of sin and turn to the gospel of light, ~ led to truly hear and accept the gospel. ~ ~ They will become light.

→→ Simply put, ~ by observing our radical new lifestyle, ~ some unbelievers will be led to become believers.

THAT THIS MAY VERY WELL BE PAUL'S THOUGHT IS REINFORCED BY PETER IN HIS first epistle.

▶▶ In 1 Pet. 2:12, ~ Peter writes, ~ "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, ~ so that when they speak against you as evildoers, ~ they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

▷▷ Simply put, ~ Peter is calling believers here to live such good lives among unbelievers that, ~ even though they might slander us or accuse us of doing evil, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ some of them, ~ by observing our honorable conduct, ~ will be drawn to Christ and be saved and glorify the Father when Jesus returns. ¶¶ 5/8

▶▶ So Peter makes it very plausible that Paul, ~ in 5:14a, ~ is saying that by observing our godly behavior some unbelievers will be drawn to Christ and be saved.

FURTHERMORE, ~ THAT THIS MAY VERY WELL BE PAUL'S THOUGHT IS ALSO reinforced by Jesus in His sermon on the mount.

▶▶ Matt. 5:16, ~ "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

▶▶ In Revelation, ~ the idea of glorifying God connotes repentance and conversion.

▷▷ Rev. 14:7 and 16:9.

▶▶ Most likely, ~ that is how Jesus is using it here in Matt. 5:16 as well, ~ that glorifying God connotes repentance and conversion.

▶▶ Basically, ~ Jesus is telling us to make our godly lifestyle like a beacon of light, ~ visible to all, ~ so that unbelievers will see our good deeds and many be drawn to Jesus in salvation.

▶▶ So Jesus and Peter make it very plausible that Paul, ~ in 5:14a, ~ is saying that by observing our godly behavior, ~ some unbelievers will be drawn to Christ and be saved.

NOW, ~ THIS LEADS US TO THREE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS.

▶▶ 1st, ~ let us never underestimate the power of a godly life.

▷▷ When tempted to compromise our witness, ~ let us come back and read what Jesus, ~ Peter, ~ and Paul have to say about the powerful influence of a godly life.

▶▶ 2nd, ~ we see from Jesus, ~ Peter, ~ and Paul that our lifestyle is tied up in our evangelism.

▷▷ So, ~ my brothers and sisters in Christ, ~ each one of us needs to ask ourselves a couple very serious questions today: ~ ~ ¶¶

↪↪ How good an evangelist is my lifestyle? ~ ~ To ~ ~ Or away

▶▶ And the 3rd implication.

▷▷ This focus on drawing people to Christ through a godly lifestyle is not a substitute for, ~ nor does it excuse us from, ~ verbally sharing the gospel. ¶¶ 6/8

▷▷ People may be drawn to Jesus through a believer's godly living, ~ but at some point the gospel must be verbally shared. ~~ Paul makes this very clear in [Rom. 10:17](#).

↳↳ "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of ~ [i.e., ~ the word about] ~ Christ. ~~ I.e., ~ the gospel.

→→ Saving faith comes through hearing the gospel.

LASTLY, ~ IN VERSE 14b, ~ PAUL APPLIES WHAT HE SAYS IN VERSES 13-14a.

"THEREFORE IT SAYS, "AWAKE, O SLEEPER, AND ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST will shine on you." ~~ Not known where quote came from. ~~ Para. of Is. 60:1-2. ~~ Early hymn.

▶▶ Now, ~ please understand, ~ not talking to or about unbelievers. ~~ Talking to believers .

▶▶ Word "Therefore" indicates that Paul is now applying what he said in [verses 13-14a](#).

▷▷ I.e., ~ Paul is saying, ~ "because godly behavior reveals the works of darkness for what they truly are, ~ and because by observing a believer's godly behavior some unbelievers will be led to become believers, ~ Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

THE PHRASE "AWAKE, O SLEEPER, AND ARISE FROM THE DEAD" IS SIMILAR TO WHAT Paul said in [4:21-24](#).

▶▶ I.e., ~ believers are taught "to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

▶▶ In saying, ~ "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead" in [verse 14b](#), ~ I would suggest that Paul is basically, ~ and poetically, ~ saying the same thing.

▷▷ I.e., ~ calling believers to leave the old life behind and to be guided by new nature.

▶▶ Perhaps we can put Paul's application this way.

▷▷ because godly behavior reveals the works of darkness for what they truly are, ~ and because by observing a believer's godly behavior some unbelievers will be led to become believers, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ believers are to leave the old life of darkness behind ~ and "live as children of light." ~~ And then "Christ will shine on" us. ¶¶ 7/8

THE QUESTION IS, ~ WHAT IS PAUL GETTING AT HERE, ~ WHEN HE SAYS "AND Christ will shine on you.?"

▶▶ Well, ~ in my research of the word for "shine," ~ I found that it means arise, ~ appear, ~ shine.

▷▷ It also means, ~ and I found this very interesting and helpful, ~ to shine out on, ~ to shine forth. ~ These two meanings give us the best clue as to what Paul's point is.

▶▶ Here, ~ I suggest, ~ is Paul's point: ~ When we leave the old life of darkness behind ~ and are continually guided by our new nature, ~ Jesus will shine forth from us.

▷▷ I.e., ~ we will display Jesus. ~ We will reflect the character of Jesus.

▶▶ And of course, ~ as discussed in Eph. 4:13b and 15, ~ Christlikeness is to be the goal of the believer's life.

▷▷ As we noted there, ~ Paul wants us to truly grasp the extremely important truth ~ that everyone who claims Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, ~ who claims to be a follower of Jesus, ~ is to become more and more like Jesus.

↪↪ And when we leave the old life of darkness behind ~ and are continually guided by our new nature, ~ we will become more and more like Jesus.

CONCLUSION.

AND THAT BRINGS US TO THE END OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

▶▶ We have covered much territory in Ephesians so far. ~ And we have much more to cover.

▷▷ And so no one loses sight of the forest for the trees, ~ I strongly encourage everyone to keep reading Ephesians at least once a week.

↪↪ And if you would like to review, ~ but don't have time to listen to the sermons, ~ I upload printed copy of each sermon along with the audio. ~ Visit . . . pencil icon . . .

LET'S PRAY 8/8