

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY, ~ WE BRING OUR LOOK AT ~ COL. 3:5-11 ~ TO A CLOSE.

▶▶ As we know ~ in this paragraph, ~ Paul ~ basically instructs believers ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to make a clean break ~ with all ~ of the sinful ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and patterns of behavior ~ of our sinful nature.

▷▷ Now that we are new creations in Christ, ~ we are ~ to totally ~ eliminate these things ~ from our lives.

↪↪ Old nature ~ not compatible ~ with new.

▶▶ Familiar pattern.

▷▷ Exhortations, ~ in this case 3, ~ with expansions.

▶▶ Last time, ~ we looked at the first exhortation.

▷▷ Paul commands us ~ to ~ eliminate ~ from our lives ~ all that belongs to our sin nature.

▷▷ We also talked about ~ the examples Paul gives ~ of what belongs ~ to ~ our old nature.

▷▷ And then ~ we looked at ~ the reasons ~ to eliminate ~ what belongs to our sinful nature.

NOW LET'S LOOK AT VERSES 8-11, ~ AND FINISH THIS PARAGRAPH UP. ¶¶ 1/16

IN VERSE 8a, ~ WE SEE THE SECOND EXHORTATION OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(LEB) BUT NOW ~ YOU ALSO LAY ASIDE ~ ALL THESE THINGS ~ [i.e., ~ what is earthly in us].

▶▶ This exhortation ~ is actually ~ the same as the first.

▷▷ Just worded differently.

▶▶ Paul's emphasizing his point.

▷▷ That there is to be ~ a ~ radical, ~ decisive, ~ and final break ~ ¶¶

↳↳ with the sinful ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and patterns of behavior ~ of our sinful nature.

THE PHRASE, ~ "BUT NOW," ~ MARKS AN EMPHATIC CONTRAST WITH VERSE 7.

▶▶ Recall ~ that in *verse 7*, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Paul said ~ what belongs to our sin nature, ~ belonged to ~ and characterized ~ our unsaved past.

▷▷ We have spent enough time ~ in the past ~ doing ~ what unbelievers choose to do

▶▶ The word "now" ~ in the phrase "But now" ~ refers ~ to our new life.

▶▶ And ~ with the phrase "But now," ~ Paul is again ~ underscoring the point ~ that ~ ¶¶

▷▷ there must be ~ a radical, ~ decisive, ~ and final break ~ with old life. ¶¶ 2/16

SO, ~ PAUL EMPHASIZES THE POINT ~ NOT ONCE ~ BUT TWICE.

▶▶By ~ restating the exhortation ~ in different words ~ and ~ by ~ stating an emphatic contrast ~ with [verse 7](#).

AND RECALL ~ FROM LAST WEEK ~ WE DISCUSSED ~ PAUL'S STRONG LANGUAGE IN verses 5 & 6.

▶▶Put to death . . . On account of these ~ the wrath of God is coming.

WHEN WE ADD ALL OF THIS UP, ~ WE SEE THAT PAUL ~ IS REALLY DRIVING HIS POINT home.

▶▶That ~ all of the old ~ must be ~ eliminated from our lives.

▶▶He grabs our attention ~ through ~ strong language, ~ repetition, ~ and contrast.

▷▷He doesn't want us to miss this.

▶▶He wants us to grasp ~ the need for ~ and the utmost seriousness and importance of ~ this break ~ with what belongs ~ to the old nature.

NOW, ~ I BELIEVE THAT ~ WHEN PAUL SAYS ~ "BUT NOW" ~ IN VERSE 8, ~ [77](#)

▶▶he is also emphasizing, ~ the immense difference ~ between ~ our new life ~ and our old life.

▷▷It's like the difference ~ between ~ the brightest day ~ and the darkest night.

SCRIPTURE ~ FREQUENTLY MAKES THIS CONTRAST. [77 3/16](#)

▶▶ The Bible often compares the old life and sin ~ with darkness.

▷▷ And it often compares ~ God, ~ his word, ~ and our new life in Christ ~ with light.

▶▶ Jesus said, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ 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. ~~ Jn. 3:19-20

▶▶ Speaking of our glorious eternal future, ~ Isaiah asserts that ~ the Lord will be our ~ everlasting light.

▶▶ And speaking about the new Jerusalem, ~ John says, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ And the city ~ has no need ~ of sun or moon to shine on it, ~ for the glory of God ~ gives it light, ~ and its lamp ~ is the Lamb.

▶▶ Recall our look at 1 Jn. 1:5 a few months back ~ and its literal translation.

▷▷ Translated very literally, ~ it reads, ~ "and darkness in Him not is, ~ not one bit."

▶▶ And note ~ what Paul says to believers ~ in Eph. 5:8a.

▷▷ for at one time ~ you were ~ darkness, ~~ but now ~ you are ~ light in the Lord.

▷▷ Notice ~ that Paul ~ does not say, ~ ¶¶

↪↪ "you were in darkness" ~ or "you walked in darkness," ~ but rather "you were darkness." ⇔⇔ This was no accident. ¶¶ 4/16

▷▷It is more than likely ~ Paul intentionally ~ chose this language ~ to show us ~ the utterly hopeless and horrible condition we were in ~ before ~ Jesus saved us.

↳↳We were not ~ essentially good people ~ who had stumbled ~ or ~ simply strayed off the path.

↳↳We were ~ in our very nature ~ "dark."

▷▷In our unsaved state, ~ we were ~ spiritually dead ~ in our "trespasses and sins."

↳↳We were ~ "separated from Christ," ~ we had ~ "no hope," ~ and ~ we were ~ "without God in the world."

↳↳Furthermore, ~ we were ~ 100% sinful, ~ sinning ~ was a way of life for us, ~ ¶¶

→→and ~ we were following the standards ~ of this world ~ and of Satan.

↳↳We were enslaved ~ to our sinful nature and its sinful desires ~ and ~ were carrying those sinful desires out daily.

↳↳And most tragically of all, ~ we were ~ subject to, ~ deserving of, ~ and destined for ~ God's wrath.

▷▷All this ~ Paul sums up ~ by saying ~ that the person we were ~ prior to Jesus saving us ~ was "darkness."

↳↳This word ~ sums up quite well ~ the utterly hopeless and horrible condition we were in ~ before Jesus saved us.

▷▷"but now ~ you are light," ~ Paul says, ~ continuing in Ephesians, ~ chapter 5, ~ verse 8a. ¶¶ 5/16

↪↪ This ~ indicates ~ that a radical transformation has taken place.

↪↪ When we are born again, ~ God the Holy Spirit ~ ↴↴

→→ creates totally new life in believers, ~ enabling ~ a life of ~ God-centered ~ and God-honoring ~ things.

↪↪ Believers ~ are new persons ~ with brand new natures.

▷▷ And Paul identifies our new nature ~ as "light."

↪↪ Perhaps to point out ~ the stark contrast ~ between ~ our new self ~ and our old self.

↪↪ Our new self ~ is as different from our old self ~ as the brightest day ~ is from the darkest night.

▷▷ Light is not associated with darkness.

↪↪ Paul asks in 2 Cor. 6:14b, ~ LEB, ~ "what fellowship ~ does light ~ have ~ with darkness?"

↪↪ We have undergone ~ radical transformation ~ from darkness to light.

↪↪ The contrast ~ to our old self ~ is stark.

↪↪ And light ~ can have ~ no fellowship ~ with darkness.

→→ This ~ calls for a radical, ~ decisive, ~ and final break ~ with what belongs to our sin nature. ↴↴ 6/16

→→It calls ~ for a new lifestyle ~ that is as different from our old lifestyle ~ as the brightest day ~ is from the darkest night.

BACK TO VERSE 8a ~ AND THE SECOND EXHORTATION.

NOW, ~ EVEN THOUGH THIS IS BASICALLY THE SAME EXHORTATION AS THE FIRST one, ~ only in different words, ~ ¶¶

▶▶we should not ignore ~ the different words.

▶▶Paul did not use the exact same words, ~ which he could have ~ to emphasize his point.

▶▶Consequently, ~ he must want us ~ to take note ~ of his words here.

SO, ~ LET'S DO THAT.

▶▶"lay aside all these things."

▶▶The figurative meaning ~ of the Greek verb for "lay aside" ~ is ~ to cease doing ~ what one is accustomed ~ to doing.

▷▷In our unsaved life, ~ we were accustomed ~ to sinning.

▷▷We ~ cultivated and manifested ~ sinful ~ characteristics, ~ ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and patterns of behavior.

IN EPH. 2:2a, ~ PAUL SAYS THAT ~ IN OUR PRE-SALVATION LIFE ~ ¶¶

▶▶we "walked" ~ in our "trespasses and sins." ¶¶ 7/16

▶▶ "walked" ~ is being used here by Paul ~ as a metaphor ~ for one's conduct in every-day life.

▷▷ It could be paraphrased ~ by the word "lived."

↳↳ I.e., ~ we "lived" ~ in our "trespasses and sins."

▶▶ Paul's point ~ is that ~ active sinning ~ characterized our lives ~ prior to salvation.

▷▷ IOW, ~ in our pre-salvation condition, ~ sinning ~ was a way of life ~ for us.

↳↳ Sin ~ dominated ~ our lives.

THAT LIFE ~ IS A RELIC OF THE PAST, ~ NOT SUITED TO THE PRESENT ~ AND MUST ~ now stop.

▶▶ Being new creations in Christ, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ we must now ~ cultivate and manifest ~ the godly ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and patterns of behavior ~ ¶¶

↳↳ that belong ~ to this new life ~ that we now have.

▶▶ More about this in [Col. 3:12-17](#).

▶▶ We must now ~ cultivate and manifest in our lives ~ what belongs to our new life in Christ.

I REFER YOU BACK ~ TO THE UPWARD ASPECT ~ OF THE BELIEVER'S PROPER FOCUS OF attention, ~ which we previously discussed. ¶¶ 8/16



▶▶ Call to mind ~ that our lives ~ are to be ~ continually dominated ~ by the things of God and our heavenly home.

▷▷ And recall ~ that we noted ~ this meant at least six things.

↳↳ Adopting ~ a whole new set of priorities ~ for our lives.

↳↳ Concentrating our efforts ~ to develop ~ the characteristics that have their source ~ in the spiritual life from above.

↳↳ Adopting the attitude ~ of the believers we read about ~ in [Hebrews 10 & 11](#).

↳↳ Taking God's will and the values of our homeland, ~ which are all spelled out in God's word, ~ and apply them ~ to our current lives.

↳↳ Having ~ a consistent prayer life.

↳↳ And ~ fostering ~ spiritually healthy relationships.

▶▶ Also, ~ call to mind that ~ being continually dominated ~ by the things of God and our heavenly home ~ was not the only part of the upward aspect.

▷▷ We went on ~ and explained also ~ that God's word ~ must govern our minds and thoughts.

(VS. 8a) New CREATIONS IN CHRIST, ~ MUST ~ CEASE DOING ~ WHAT WE WERE ONCE ~ accustomed to doing. ⇔⇔ We must ~ "lay aside ~ all these things."

▶▶ We are ~ to now live ~ as God's obedient children.

▶▶ We are not ~ to continue ~ or to slip back into ~ our old ways of living. 📖 9/16

▶▶ We must now ~ be holy ~ in everything we do, ~ just as God ~ who chose us ~ is holy.

IN VERSE 8b, ~ PAUL GIVES MORE EXAMPLES ~ of what belongs to the old nature.

PAUL LISTS 5 THINGS. ⇨⇨ Very briefly.

ANGER = CHRONIC ANGER.

▶▶ Constantly angry.

▶▶ Provocations ~ do not create this person's anger. ⇨⇨ Already angry.

▷▷ Provocations ~ merely reveal ~ that they are an angry person ~ and give them a target for their anger.

▶▶ Believers ~ are not ~ to be guilty of chronic anger.

▶▶ James 1:19b-20 (NIV) ~ tells us ~ that believers ~ should be "slow to become angry."

▷▷ And then he tells us why.

↳↳ because human anger ~ does not produce the righteousness ~ that God desires.

▷▷ An angry attitude ~ is not ~ the atmosphere ~ in which righteousness flourishes.

↳↳ IOW, ~ godly behavior will not result ~ from being constantly angry.

WRATH = SUDDEN RAGE.

▶▶ It refers ~ to a sudden outburst of anger. ⇩⇩ 10/16

▶▶ The Greeks likened it to a fire in straw, ~ which flares up briefly and is gone.

▶▶ It is used ~ to speak of those in the synagogue of Nazareth ~ who exploded in anger ~ upon hearing Jesus' teachings (Luke 4:28).

▶▶ This ~ is not acceptable behavior for believers.

## MALICE.

▶▶ Describes the kind of vicious cruelty ~ that uses words as weapons. ⇔⇔ Unacceptable.

## SLANDER.

▶▶ The Greek word for slander ~ means ~ to speak against someone in such a way ~ as to ~ harm or injure ~ his or her reputation.

▷▷ Unacceptable.

## AND THE LAST ONE IS ~ FOUL-MOUTHED LANGUAGE.

▶▶ Pretty self-explanatory. ⇔⇔ Unacceptable.

## AGAIN, ~ EXAMPLES AND NOT A COMPREHENSIVE LIST.

▶▶ Overall point is still the same.

▷▷ Believers ~ are to make ~ a radical, ~ decisive, ~ and final ~ break ~ with all ~ of ~ 77

↳↳ the sinful ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ speech, ~ attitudes, ~ and patterns of behavior ~ of our sinful nature. 11/16

NOW, ~ AFTER THE EXAMPLES ~ THAT FOLLOWED ~ THE FIRST EXHORTATION, ~ PAUL  
~ followed up ~ with the reasons ~ for the exhortation.

HERE ~ WE DON'T SEE THAT. ⇨⇨ And the reason is simple.

▶▶2<sup>nd</sup> exhortation ~ is basically the same as the 1<sup>st</sup>. ⇨⇨ So reasons for 1<sup>st</sup> cover 2<sup>nd</sup> as well.

NOW ~ LET'S TURN OUR ATTENTION ~ TO THE 3<sup>rd</sup> EXHORTATION, ~ VERSE 9a.

DO NOT LIE ~ TO ONE ANOTHER.

▶▶Now, ~ when we stop and think about it, ~ Paul could have listed this ~ in one of the lists of examples.

▶▶For it definitely ~ is an example ~ of what belongs ~ to our old nature.

▶▶But, ~ he doesn't. ⇨⇨ He isolates it ~ and makes it ~ a separate exhortation.

▶▶In doing so, ~ he wants us ~ to focus ~ on this ~ a little more ~ than the other examples.

THE QUESTION IS, ~ WHY? ⇨⇨ DON'T REALLY KNOW.

▶▶But maybe because ~ lying comes so naturally to us.

▶▶Perhaps ~ he wanted to emphasize ~ the importance of honesty within the body of Christ.

▷▷And we see the importance ~ by noting ~ how God ~views lying. ⇨⇨ Prov. 12:22 (NIV).

↳↳The Lord detests ~ lying lips, ~ but he delights ~ in people ~ who are trustworthy ~ [i.e., ~ those who are totally dependable in what they do and say]. ↴↴ 12/16

▶▶Paul may have also wanted to emphasize ~ the dangers of the tongue ~ and the need to control it.

▷▷James addresses this issue head on, ~ when he talked about ~ the dangers ~ of the tongue ~ and the importance of controlling it. ⇔⇔ James 3:8-10.

↳↳but no human being ~ can tame the tongue. ~ It is a restless evil, ~ full ~ of deadly poison. ~ With it ~ we bless our Lord and Father, and with it ~ we curse people ~ who are made in the likeness of God. ~ From the same mouth ~ come blessing and cursing. ~ My brothers, ~ these things ~ ought not to be so.

→→Paraphrased: ~ "Surely, ~ my brothers and sisters, ~ this is not right."

"DO NOT ~ LIE TO ONE ANOTHER," ~ PAUL SAYS.

▶▶While believers are to be honest ~ with believers and unbelievers alike, ~ this ~ is within the context of relationships with believers.

▷▷So, ~ "one another" here ~ is talking about ~ not lying to our fellow believers.

▶▶The form of the verb ~ prohibits all lying.

▷▷We could translate it this way: ~ "Never ~ lie ~ to one another."

▶▶Whenever we speak, ~ what comes out ~ must ~ be the truth.

▷▷Our statements ~ must ~ correspond ~ with the facts.

LYING BELONGS TO THE PERSON WE USED TO BE WHEN WE WERE UNSAVED, ~ ¶¶

▶▶and to "the domain of darkness," ~ from which we've been rescued. ¶¶ 13/16

▷▷Speaking of Satan, ~ Jesus said that ~ he is a liar ~ and the father of lies." ⇨ Source.

▷▷On the other hand, ~ Jesus ~ is ~ "the way, ~ and the truth, ~ and the life."

▶▶Lying ~ is sin.

▷▷And sin ~ leads us ~ into slavery.

▶▶In contrast, ~ Jesus said, ~ "If you abide in my word, ~ you are truly my disciples, ~ and ~ you will know the truth, ~ and the truth ~ will set you free." Jn. 8:31b-32.

### IN VERSES 9b-11, ~ PAUL LISTS ~ TWO REASONS ~ FOR THE 3<sup>rd</sup> EXHORTATION.

#### THE FIRST REASON ~ WE ARE NOT TO LIE TO OUR FELLOW BELIEVERS, ~ VV. 9b-10.

▶▶seeing ~ that you have put off the old self ~ with its practices ~ and have put on the new self, ~ which is being renewed ~ in knowledge ~ after the image ~ of its creator.

▶▶Simply put, ~ Paul is reiterating ~ what we've been discussing off and on recently.

▶▶The old self has been crucified. ⇨⇨ Raised to new life. ⇨⇨ New creations.

▶▶And lying ~ has absolutely no place ~ in the new life and the kingdom of Jesus.

#### AND NOW ~ THE SECOND REASON ~ WE ARE NOT TO LIE TO OUR FELLOW BELIEVERS, ~ verse 11.

▶▶Here ~ there is not ~ Greek and Jew, ~ circumcised and uncircumcised, ~ barbarian, ~ Scythian, ~ slave, ~ free; ~ but Christ is all, ~ and in all. ↓↓ 14/16

THIS IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND ~ HOW THIS CAN BE A REASON FOR NOT LYING TO one another.

▶▶ But, ~ when we compare Scripture with Scripture, ~ we can better understand the overall point.

▶▶ Paul has the identical exhortation in Eph. 4:25.

▷▷ Therefore, ~ having put away falsehood, ~ let each one of you ~ speak the truth with his neighbor, ~ for we are members one of another.

IN BOTH INSTANCES, ~ PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT BELIEVERS ~ being members of the same body, ~ the body of Christ.

▶▶ It's just that in Colossians, ~ and here we note the words ~ he's saying it ~ ¶¶

▷▷ by pointing out ~ that ~ there are no racial, ~ ethnic, ~ or class ~ distinctions ~ in the body of Christ.

↪↪ We are all heavenly citizens. ⇔⇔ Equal in God's eyes.

▶▶ Again, ~ in ~ Eph. 4:25 ~ and ~ Col. 3:11, ~ Paul is pointing to all believers ~ as members of the body of Christ.

▶▶ And ~ it is because ~ we are all members of the same body, ~ the body of Christ, ~ the church, ~ we are not to be lying to one another.

▷▷ It has no place in the body of Christ.

↪↪ Rather, ~ we are to speak the truth to each other ~ at all times.

THINK ABOUT OUR HUMAN BODIES. ¶¶ 15/16

▶▶ We can live in safety ~ only ~ when the senses and nerves of our bodies ~ pass true messages ~ to our brains.

▶▶ If they began sending false messages to our brains, ~ we'd be in big trouble.

▶▶ E.g., ~ if our senses and nerves ~ told our brains ~ that something was cool and touchable ~ when in fact ~ it was hot and burning, ~ 77

▷▷ we would be ` in grave danger ~ of being ~ burned ~ or ~ even killed.

▶▶ A body ~ can ~ function properly ~ and ward off danger ~ only ~ when each part of it ~ passes true messages ~ to the brain.

IT IS THE SAME FOR OUR LOCAL FELLOWSHIP, ~ NHCC.

▶▶ In order ~ to ~ function properly ~ to ~ ward off danger, ~ to ~ not give Satan a foothold in our fellowship, ~ 77

▷▷ we must not ~ send false messages ~ to one another.

↪↪ We must always ~ speak truth ~ to one another.

CONCLUSION. ⇔⇔ BRINGS US TO THE END OF COL. 3:5-11.

IN THIS PARAGRAPH, ~ 3:5-11, ~ PAUL HAS INSTRUCTED US ~ TO MAKE A RADICAL, ~ decisive, ~ and final ~ break ~ 77

▶▶ with all ~ of the sinful ~ characteristics, ~ thoughts, ~ attitudes, ~ speech, ~ and patterns of behavior ~ of our sinful nature.

LET'S PRAY . . . . 16/16