



“Don’t leave your first love!” (Revelation 2:4)

A Study of the Book of Ephesians

Lesson Eight = THE RENEWAL IN CHRIST (Ephesians 4:17-32)

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (June 29, 2014)

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Live event via YouVersion Bible app

Introduction: In **Revelation 2:1-7** we read a letter from Jesus to the church at Ephesus. In that letter, Jesus condemns the Ephesians because they left their first love. On Sunday mornings we are noticing the words of Paul in the letter he wrote Ephesians, several years before that condemnation by Christ. We have noted that if the Ephesian Christians had just listened to the apostle Paul they would have avoided that terrible fate. Specifically in our time together today we are going to consider the renewal we can have in Christ. Paul issues some very specific challenges for all those who have been renewed. Let’s study together....

Discussion:

I. Renewal in Christ Compels Us To Be Different (Ephesians 4:17-19)

- A. The Lord Changes Our Head
- B. The Lord Changes Our Heart
- C. The Lord Changes Our Hands

II. Renewal in Christ Compels Us To Be Decisive (Ephesians 4:20-21)

- A. Seek to Learn Christ’s Ways
- B. Seek to Learn Christ’s Will
- C. Seek to Learn Christ’s Word

III. Renewal in Christ Compels Us To Be Declarative (Ephesians 4:22-24)

- A. Declare What You Have Put Away
- B. Declare How You Have Changed
- C. Declare What You Have Put On

IV. Renewal in Christ Compels Us To Be Dependable (Ephesians 4:25-32)

- A. Lying is Replaced by Truth
- B. Anger is Replaced by Forgiveness
- C. Stealing is Replaced by Giving
- D. Corrupt Speech is Replaced by Edifying Speech
- E. Bitterness is Replaced by Kindness

Conclusion: Consider the story of Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier who designed a balloon 33 feet in diameter to sail around the marketplace in Annonay, France (June 4, 1783). The result of that experiment is similar to what happens to those of us who choose to walk with the Lord. We work hard to rise above this world, fill our lives with God’s Holy Spirit, and surrender to a higher purpose but people of this world only want to bring us down. Our enemy, the devil, wants us to keep our eyes on the earth so that we will turn our faces away from Heaven. Isn’t it time you found renewal and revival? Are you ready to launch out in faith? Are you ready to be covered by the blood of Jesus in baptism? Are you ready to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Renewal awaits. Return to your first love.