

4:17-19's no longer the old self, separated from God

-comparison to 17's "Gentiles"-- strange since his audience was Gentiles (see: 'pagans')

-cultural/ethnic vs. religious --> their new identity

-call to us (in general): 17's live differently vs. "futility", etc. (Ecc 1:2's 'vanity')

-importance of distinctiveness to one's witness-- "salt" (I Pet 2:12)

-self-interested behavior! that which is of eternal vs. no value

-vs. below...

-the option and its impact on our call to ministry: 17's "futility", 18's "darkened in their understanding...ignorance...hardened", 19's "lost all sensitivity"

-points to the consequences of perpetual sin

-19's "sensuality", "continual lust for more" --> never satisfied

-see: Lewis' (spiritually) blind, drunk-- often don't know when you're in that state...

-MH's "When men's consciences are seared, there are no bounds to their sins."

--> same themes in Rom 1:20-21,24-32 (incl. "given themselves over" vs. "God gave them over"; free will vs. pre-destination)

-w/ app. to ministry-- how we deal with non-C's

-makes it difficult-- playing for the LR, lifestyle evangelism, being there when they wash up on shore

-the need to get their attention from within their blindness-- ask good Q's to get them to think (voluntarily vs. trying to pressure them); flexible methods

-emphasize process of S vs. giving up seemingly alluring stuff cold turkey

-our patience, pity and esp. empathy incl. 'there but for the grace of God go I' and the ultimate: Christ's last words w/ "forgive them"

-the import of prayer and dependence on God; less pressure

-> I Pet 1:14,18, 4:3-4

--> 18's "due to the hardening of their hearts"

-MH's "It was not because God did not make Himself known to them, but because they would not admit the instructive rays of the divine light."

-see: Ex 7-11 for Pharoah, God's glory/deliverance; Lk 16:27-31's "send Lazarus vs. Moses/prophets", Titus 2:11's "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men."

-Rom 1:20-- the God who is the center of the universe, wants to be at the center of our hearts as well

-everyone has at least one opportunity where God pierces and reveals

-as a result, hearts are either hardened or softened

-see: the same sun that hardens clay, melts wax