

Ephesians 4:18 - having become continuously darkened [σκοτίζω (*skotízō*): absence of mental clarity] in their way of thinking, excluded [ἀπαλλοτριώω (*apallotriōō*): alienated and estranged] from the life of God because of the ignorance [ἄγνοια (*ágnōia*): oblivious to establishment or divine viewpoint] which keeps on being in them because of the hardness [πώρωσις (*porōsis*): callousness, blindness, insensitivity] of their *kardía*; (EXT)

24. There are four words in verse 18 that descriptively evaluate the degenerative mental process that occurs in the soul when an individual rejects establishment thought in the case of the unbeliever and both establishment and biblical thought in the case of believers.
25. The four words in verse 18 are made possible by the word *mataiótēs* in verse 17 that describes the vacuum in the soul that occurs with the rejection of divine viewpoint.
26. Where the “light” of the Word of God is depleted, the resultant vacuum replaces it with the “darkness” of human viewpoint.
27. This is characterized by the perfect passive participle of the verb *skotízō*. The perfect tense is a perfect periphrastic which means the condition of darkness is intensified in the sense that what happened in the past due to negative volition is intensified as it continues.
27. The verb that precedes *skotízō* is εἰμί (*eimí*): “to be,” and translated “having become continuously darkened.” This perfect tense is static indicating a condition which is assumed as perpetually existing and thus taken for granted as a fact.
28. The passive voice indicates that the individual receives the action of the verb caused by the *mataiótēs* vacuum.

29. This part of the cognitive decline is developed by the doctrine of Blackout of the Soul which is a sixth stage of the eight stages of reversionism.
30. Blackout of the soul is defined as “the vacuum in the soul that causes human viewpoint, human good, and evil to be sucked into the void which corrupts the thought process with doctrines of demons. Total disorientation due to the influence of evil.
31. What results from this darkness is a life that is “excluded” from the life of God. This is another perfect passive participle from the verb *apallotriōō*. The person is alienated from Scripture and excluded from God. The perfect is intensive and indicates that this process continues on a downward slide.
32. Next, verse 18 reveals that the reason for this devolving process is “ignorance,” indicated by the noun *ágnōia*. Whatever inventory previously possessed by this individual, whether establishment orientation or doctrinal categories, the blackout of the soul has rendered him ignorant.
33. Damaged and mangled details of the previously advanced inventory that remains is covered in a substance which the Greek calls *pórosis* which is defined “to harden, petrify, or render insensitive.”
34. Used figuratively here, it means “hardness, callousness, blindness, insensitivity.” A Greek synonym is the noun *σκληρότης (sklērótēs)* meaning “hardness of heart” which perfectly illustrates the situation described here.
35. The English dictionary picks up on these ideas in its definitions of the word “callous”:

1. Being hardened or thickened. 2. Feeling no emotion; feeling or showing no sympathy for others: hard-hearted. Callosity. 1. The quality or state of being callous: as a: marked or abnormal hardness and thickness. b. lack of feeling or capacity for emotions.¹

¹ Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed., s.vv. “callous,” “callosity.”

36. “Hardness of heart” defines the seventh stage of reversionism which is called “scar tissue of the soul”:

The buildup of false doctrines in the soul which shuts down any recall of doctrine. The rate of forgetting exceeds the rate of recall. Vocabulary is diminished, norms and standards degenerate, momentum halts; and wisdom is lost; all spiritual functions shut down.

37. Demonic forces, ever on the alert in the Invisible War, seek to entrap an unbeliever or a believer in reversionism as observed by Peter in:

1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober [advance to the sophisticated spiritual life], be on the alert [Code Red]. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion,² seeking someone to devour [a hungry lion culls the weakest or slowest of the herd].

38. The power to resist such attacks is noted in the next verse:

1 Peter 5:9 - Resist him steadfast in doctrine, knowing that the same kinds of undeserved suffering are endured by your fellow believers that are in the devil’s world. (EXT)

39. Paul alerts us in several passages to identify Lucifer’s devices by means of doctrine resident in the soul.

² “A full-grown male is about 6–7 feet long, excluding the 3-foot long tail; stands about 4 feet high at the shoulder; and weighs 370–500 pounds” (*The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia* (2010), 7:382.