

- (5) The vacuum of the soul, mentioned in Ephesians 4:17, is the channel created by negative volition and implosion, through which false doctrine enters into the soul of the believer.
- (6) The mechanics of the blackout of the soul include:
 - (1) Implosion or self-fragmentation toward sin-nature trends.
 - (2) Explosion or polarized fragmentation toward legalism.
 - (3) Fragmentation toward categories of subjective arrogance.
- (7) Even the unbeliever, by being negative toward the gospel, has blackout of the soul.

2 Corinthians 4:3 Even if our gospel is hidden, it is hidden to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of those who are unbelieving that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God.

7. Scar Tissue of the Soul

Ephesians 4:18 They are darkened in their way of thinking; they have been alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the scar tissue of their *kardias*.

- (1) Scar tissue of the soul is prolonged residence in the cosmic system. It is prolonged fragmentation unchecked, reaction to any form of accurate Bible teaching, and strong reaction to those who communicate accurately the mystery doctrine of the Church Age.
- (2) This is tantamount to paralyzing the valves of the heart, so that there is no more circulation of doctrine in the frame of reference, memory center, vocabulary storage, categorical storage, conscience, momentum department, wisdom department, and subconscious mind.
- (3) The Scripture calls scar tissue of the soul “hardness of heart,” “hardening of the neck,” or “hardening of the face.”
 - (a) “Hardened their heart” is a quote by Isaiah cited by John in:

John 12:40 “He [God] has blinded their eyes with the result that they continue that way and hardened their heart, so that they would not see with their eyes and perceive with their heart, and be converted and I heal them.”
(NKJV)



- (b) “Hardening the neck” is found in the King James Version’s translation of Nehemiah 9:16-17. In this passage, Nehemiah indicts the Jews for their insubordination toward God:

Nehemiah 9:16 “But they and their fathers acted proudly, hardened their necks, and did not heed Your commandments.

v. 17 They refused to obey, and they were not mindful of Your wonders that You did among them. But they hardened their necks and in their rebellion they appointed a leader to return to their bondage.¹ (NKJV)

- (c) “Hardens his face” is a term found in Proverbs:

Proverbs 21:29a A wicked man hardens his face ...

- (4) At this point, the believer cannot be distinguished from the unbeliever. Not only that, but he is very anti-authority in both the spiritual and temporal realms of life.
- (5) In this stage is where reversionism becomes a reality. Remember that reversionism is the act of reverting or returning to a former belief or practice.
- (6) Blackout of the soul plus scar tissue of the soul equals Christian degeneracy or reverse-process reversionism.
- (7) Scar tissue of the soul is the status of cosmic involvement, and therefore a violation of John’s imperative in:

1 John 2:15 Stop loving the cosmic system or anything in the cosmic system. If anyone keeps loving the cosmic system, the love of the Father is not in him.

- (8) Scar tissue of the soul is the final step into Christian degeneracy because scar tissue of the soul is motivation for degeneracy.
- (9) Scar tissue of the soul is the enemy of evangelism as previously noted in John 12:40.
- (10) The unbeliever is controlled by the cosmic system with scar tissue of the soul. The teachings of cosmic pastors are called out by Peter in:

2 Peter 2:22 It happens to them according to the true proverb, “The dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “A sow, after washing, returns to wallow in the mire.” (NET)

¹ See also, Jeremiah 7:26

- (11) Scar tissue of the soul is the enemy of evangelism:

Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. (NASB)

- (12) The mechanics of the unbeliever's scar tissue are described in:

2 Thessalonians 2:10 And by means of all deception of unrighteousness to those who are being led astray [**tendential present passive participle of ἀπόλλυμι (apóllumi): “caused to perish”²**] because they have not received the love of the truth [ἀλήθεια (alétheia)] in order that they might be saved. (EXT)

8. Reverse-Process Reversionism.

- (a) This is the final stage of reversionism, a combination of the sixth and seventh stages. It is the antithesis of being an invisible hero.
- (b) Everything that is worthwhile and valuable in life is rejected; everything that is useless and nonsense is accepted. Prolonged residence in the cosmic system causes a complete reversal of all mandates, all priorities, and all norms and standards related to the protocol plan of God.
- (c) Christian degeneracy reaches its peak in reverse-process reversionism. The believer in reverse-process reversionism cannot be distinguished in any way from an unbeliever, though he cannot lose his salvation.
- (d) In reverse-process reversionism, degeneracy is defined as decline from the normal standards of the protocol plan of God. Therefore, the believer retrogresses into below normal stages of reversionism, and totally reverts from the divine standards found in the Word of God.
 - (1) The believer in moral degeneracy declines from the normal standards of the protocol plan, and sinks into such sub-normal standards of self-fragmentation, polarized fragmentation of legalism, and continues through the stages of reversionism.

² The tendential present means the action has not taken place, but syntax says it is a future certainty. Paul is writing what he is told by God the Holy Spirit, but this syntax indicates Paul is not happy that these people have negative volition, and they will be utterly destroyed: “caused to perish.”

Reverse-process means to face in the opposite direction, to reverse course to invert beliefs by a turnabout in thinking. The reversionist spurns that which he should love and loves that which he should spurn.³

- (2) “Reverse-process” means to face in the opposite direction either spiritually, mentally, or physically.
- (e) Reverse-process reversionism is an inverted position of degeneracy by the reversal of objects. Bona fide objects of love and priorities include doctrine, personal love for God the Father, occupation with Christ, having a right pastor, right spouse, and right friends are all reversed. In reverse-process reversionism, pseudo-love objects replace Biblical priorities.
- (f) The believer reverses the objects of his love, attention, concentration, and priorities. Reverse-process reversionism is characterized by the reversal of love objects. In Revelation, John describes this as, “leaving your first love”:

Revelation 2:4 ‘I have this against you believers, that you have abandoned your first love [**spiritual growth**].

v. 5 ‘Therefore, recall to mind and remember from what state you have fallen. Change your mind [**rebound**], and execute the deeds you did at first. Otherwise, if you do not do so, I will come to you and remove your lampstand [**the church**] if you do not repent. (EXT)

Principles from Revelation 2:4–5

The first half of verse 5 is the solution to the problem of national degeneracy. The second half gives the denouement—the outcome of a complex sequence of events. The Lampstand is the church given by Jesus. If the churches are removed from the nation, then that nation will no longer be a Client Nation to God and it will be changed or destroyed. The nation may still have churches, but if there is no Light in the Lampstands then doctrine is not being taught or the congregation is negative and antagonistic to doctrinal teaching.

³ R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Reversionism*, 2d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2000), 37.

