

[NOTE: A special Easter series was taught on Sunday, 4 April (both sessions), Tuesday, 6 April, and Thursday, 8 April 1999; *Substitutionary Sacrifice: Isaiah's Prophecy of the Passion* (Isaiah 52:13-53:12). See 99ES-01 through 99ES-04.]

Faith-Rest Drill: Old Age in the Life of a Reversionist: Ecclesiastes 12:1; Scar Tissue of the Soul, Ephesians 4:17-19

- 19) All of us suffer from the gene pool crapshoot. Many of the maladies we are about to note in Solomon's poetry may afflict us as we age. But the grace of God will see us through it as the Lord walks with us through the Death-Shadowed Valley.
- 20) Those who in youth reject the Creator, will often arrive at old age suffering an intensification of the maladies that normally occur with aging.
- 21) In verse 1 Solomon mentions the "evil days." This describes old age without the comfort of a lifelong relationship with the Lord and the confidence of His loving care and provision.
- 22) There is quite a bit of figurative language to describe old age and it begins in verses 1 and 2 with a general synopsis of the circumstances:

Ecclesiastes 12:1b - "I have no delight in them [the period of the reversionist's life when the difficulties associated with aging are prevalent];

v 2 - before the sun, the light, the moon, and the stars are darkened and clouds return after the rain;

- 1) The imagery here has to do with ongoing troubles in the absence of clear doctrinal thought.
- 2) The sun makes reference to the human spirit which works in coordination with the Holy Spirit in the inculcation, storage, and application of doctrine.

- 3) The reversionist does not have the apprehension, clear thought, and dependable recall provided by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.
- 4) Therefore the ability of the human spirit to illuminate divine principles for self-analysis, decision-making, and problem solving is darkened.
- 5) The moon makes reference to the soul which is darkened in its stream of consciousness by the dominance of the first husband and the development of scar tissue on the soul.
- 6) Scar tissue of the soul, also known as hardness of the heart, is the result of prolonged residence and function inside the cosmic system where there is a pseudo function of GAP.
- 7) Scar tissue of the soul is this false information being processed into the believer's stream of consciousness.
- 8) Negative volition creates a vacuum in the soul called **ματαιότης / *mataiotes*** / which results in a blackout of the soul.

Ephesians 4:17 - This I ... affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk in the futility of their mind,

v 18 - being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

v 19 - and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

1. This passage gives us the opportunity to briefly review how scar tissue develops on the soul of the reversionist.
2. When the believer allows himself to undergo prolonged periods of carnality, reversionism develops and literally sucks in false doctrine.

3. Eventually, his lifestyle takes on the behavior patterns that emulate those of the unbeliever.
4. Paul refers to this as “walking as the Gentiles walk.” The word for walk is **περιπατέω / *peripateo* /**, a customary present which indicates habitual behavior patterns and character traits which imitate the lifestyle of the unbeliever.
5. The word for “futility” is the Greek word for vacuum, **ματαιότης / *mataiotes* /**, and describes the vacuous thought associated with the reversionistic process.
6. This Greek word explains what Solomon means in Ecclesiastes when he speaks of “emptiness,” the Hebrew word, *hebel*.
7. Negative volition shuts out all divine viewpoint communicated by the pastor or anyone else for that matter.
8. But the human mind does not cease to function and process data. Therefore, a vacuum is created in the soul and false doctrine is what rushes in to fill the void.
9. Therefore, your lifestyle is dictated by this false information which fills the vacuum and the soul is neutralized.