**April 22, 2018 “Let No One Deceive You” Ephesians 5:6-7**

As I have studied and looked at the various passages in the second half of the book of Ephesians, I am reminded again and again of the amount of value God places on how you and I live this earthly life. Revelation 20:12-13 shows us that God is recording the lives of all men in great detail which is a confirmation of that which happened in Malachi 3:16.

Have you ever asked yourself why God is doing this? Is He some type of tyrant that wants to hold everything we have ever done, whether right or wrong, so that a sometime or someday He can bludgeon us with guilt for the lives we have lived? Is that what He is really up to?

Note again Malachi 3:16 and compare this to Revelation 20:12-13. You will notice there are two groups of people.

* Malachi 3:16
  + Those who feared the Lord
  + Those who esteem His name
  + Does not this remind us of Ephesians 5:1?
    - Therefore, be imitators of God
* Revelation 20:12-13
  + Those who are dead… to God
  + Death and Hades (Hell) gave up the dead that were in it

It is vital that we understand that the Bible reveals two distinct and very separate groups of people this world. They are described as

* Those who have hope
  + In the unconditional forgiveness, mercy and grace of God which is the only hope for all mankind
* Those who have no hope who think… because they love puppies and kittens and dolphins and trees that God is going to excuse all their sins against Him because they are really a good person on the inside

This is why there is such a sharp contrast between Ephesians 5:5-6 as they are compared to Ephesians 5:3-4. Ephesians 5:3-4 describe everything in this world which is a poor substitute for the love of God. That is why Paul says inn Ephesians 5:3… “must not even be named among you”

1. This you know
   1. Be absolutely certain about this
      1. Any sexual activity outside of the realm of God’s design which is marriage
         1. One man with one woman for one life
         2. Regardless of what the Supreme Court or any other court declares
      2. Will result in a separation from God
         1. Know this for an absolute certainty
            1. Fool the preacher
            2. Fool yourself
            3. Cannot fool God
      3. Has an inheritance in the kingdom of God
      4. But what about my past life?
         1. I Corinthians 6:9-11
         2. “Such were some of you”
            1. But you were washed
            2. You were made holy

Set apart for the glory of God

* + - * 1. You are declared not guilty

How?

Through faith in the finished work of Christ on Calvary

* 1. Impure
     1. Akatharsía used by Jesus in Matthew 23:27
        1. Full of death in your relationship to
           1. God and others
           2. Only seeking for what you can get out of the situation
     2. Look around you and you can find impurity extoled and excused
        1. Roman Polanski
           1. Fled child molestation charges… won an Oscar in 2003
        2. Harvey Weinstein
     3. Many so-called Christian leaders
        1. Greed, corruption and sexual sins
     4. Many politicians
        1. FBI and Justice Department
  2. Covetousness
     1. Pleonexía… fraud or hoax
        1. Love of possessing
           1. Story of younger couple over $100,000 in debt on credit cards alone
           2. Fantasy that things will somehow satisfy the heart

1. Let no one deceive you
   1. With empty words
      1. I John 2:15-17
         1. Three things
            1. Lust of the flesh
            2. Lust of the eyes
            3. Pride of life
      2. Is it wrong to have things?
         1. NO… it is wrong for things to have you
   2. Where does deceit start?
      1. As a man thinks in his heart… so is he