

Put off your old self and put on the new self

June 2024 (#2)

* Praise with joy : Hymn 94 'I'd Rather Have Jesus', The most precious thing inside me

* Bible verse : Ephesians 4 : 17-24

* Focusing on Words : At the moment when we become Christians, we put off our old selves and put on the new selves. Our old selves were the ones being slaves to the sins in the world. We had been the ones in the futility of our thinking, in the ignorance of the spirit and having lost all sensitivity. However because God delivered us to His kingdom, we could live as new ones with new identities. We became new creations putting on new selves.

* Understanding the background : Christians ought to live new lives distinguished from the former lifestyles of Gentiles. But the reality is that they practically live in the world controlled by the culture and spirit of Gentiles. It isn't easy to live as the body of Christ in this world. It happens that born again Christians go back to the places where they have once belonged to. Paul encourages them again how to keep their holiness from the deceitful desire.

* Sharing the Words

1. #. Observing & Contemplating : Read Ephesians 4 : 17-24

1) Paul describes how they had been before they accepted Jesus as their savior.

How had they been? (verse 17-19)

- They had done so in the futility of their thinking.

- They had been darkened in their understanding and the ignorance that had been in them had hardened their hearts.

- Had lost all sensitivity, they had given themselves over to sensuality.

2) Paul tells them to abandon their former way of life. What is the reason to do so? (verse 20)

- Because they, however, did not come to know Christ that way.

: Paul clearly taught them the way of following Jesus. Their former way of life must be put off and never be put on again.

3) How does Paul explain the way of life we must put on? (verse 23,24)

- We must be made new in the attitude of our mind.

- We must put on the new self, be created in true righteousness and holiness.

: Being made new in the attitude of our mind means that we reflect ourselves on God's Words everyday and try to become like the Lord. Becoming like the Lord means that the Lord becomes the master of our lives and we live obeying his Words. Putting on the holiness of righteousness and the truth means that I become fulfilled with the Lord's character. It means that Lord's holiness not only is proclaimed by my mouth but also reflects as the light out of my life. Because people will see the Lord through me.

#. Applying & Sharing

1) Where can you draw the line between Christians and non Christians in your opinion? What is the clear distinction between the two?

: Share your opinion on what kind of characters Christians have. Then you can also clearly say the characteristics non Christians have.

2) In terms of putting on the holiness of righteousness and the truth, can you share your personal experience? Share the best example of your putting on the new self.

Look at one another to find out what kind of new selves your fellow members have practically put on. Praise him or her for what you have found.
: Have some time to praise and encourage one another for his or her characters becoming like Christ.

* Conclusion : After exercise we put off clothes that are wet with sweat and put on new clean clothes. Accepting Christ and having salvation mean that we put off dirty clothes of former life and put on new clothes of holiness in Christ. Let's hope that we put on new clothes of the holiness of the Lord everyday.

* Prayers to reflect on the Words

1. Let us be clean and put off dirty clothes that could still be on us. Let us put on only new clothes of the holiness of Jesus Christ everyday.
2. Let the Inland church put on new clothes of the holiness and put off the old clothes in order to complete God's mission. Let each developing department and Inland Sunday school put on the new selves.
3. Have mercy on the patient members of the church. Have difficult times fade away from them. Have them strong in the belief of the Lord and have the grace of healing be with them.