

Pastoral Notes

'There was a Time'
Ephesians 4:17-24.

One thing common to **all people** is we **'have a past'**. This applies to people in the church and in the world. **The challenge for us is to change our thinking and living to be more Christ like.** Just as you can't put 'your old mess in a new dress', you can't put 'your old talk in your new walk'.

In essence, we are to be "prisoners of Christ" who are **completely under his authority and bound to do**

learned in the world? The Apostle Paul says this kind of thinking is futile, ignorant and leads to separation from God. **All of us can say 'there was a time when I', and can fill in the blanks. But God is looking for his sheep to have a renewed mind that leads to a changed heart.** His saints acknowledge 'there was a time' when we walked in darkness but now we strive to walk in the light of our loving Lord.

There is a price to pay as a Christian but the biggest price was paid by

Key Sermonic Points

1. *Freedom used too liberally can be a yoke that puts you in bondage to sin.*
2. *Is your lifestyle pleasing God or pleasing you?*
3. *You can't put old ways in a new praise*

what he commands. In this way, we **honor him** in a way that deems us worthy of his call for us to be part of his kingdom.

We need **not dwell in our past** but should 'reflect' and remember how we used to be, to appreciate just how far we've come. All of us are on the Sanctification road where we are **moving from selfishness to holiness.** Our goal should be to first please God, then please ourselves.

Has there been a real change in your life or are you holding on to bad habits

Jesus. Our price is that we can't go all the places we used to go, nor show all the things we used to show. But isn't that a small sacrifice in comparison to what Christ has done for you?

The sermon is available on CD as well as our website. Let it bless you or someone else who needs Jesus so they will be able to testify 'there was a time'.

Stay Blessed,
Pastor Robbie

Nuggets:

- Ignorance is not having a desire to know God
- Having a hard heart can lead to having a hard head
- Surrendering to God means you 'willingly' give up your right to live according to the standards of a sin-sick world
- Satan wants you to be "permissive" while God wants you to be "submissive"
- The reprobate mind believes there is a way around God.