

Saturday night TAKING BACK THE “TOPOS”

Pastor Nathan Daniel

(All verses from New American Standard Updated unless otherwise designated)

Eph. 4:17-32

Paul is talking to Christians and telling them to lay aside the old self (22)

Paul's description of the old self are:

- Living in the futility of their mind (17)
- Being darkened in their understanding (18)
- Excluded from the life of God- because of spiritual ignorance (18)
- Hard hearted (18)
- They have become calloused of heart (18)
- They have given themselves over to sensuality (19)
- They are practicing every kind of impurity (19)
- They are greedy (19)

He tells them to be renewed in the spirit of their mind and put on the new self which is:

- Like God (24)
- In righteousness (24)
- And Holiness (24)
- And the Truth (24)

Then he tells them how to do it.

- Speak truth each one of you with his neighbor (25)
- Be angry (26)
- Resolve your anger before you go to sleep that night (27)

The consequences if you do not:

- You give the devil “topos” Greek word for place, opportunity, foothold

It doesn't say the devil can take something, but rather we GIVE him some “right” to our life. Remember what God told Cain “Sin is crouching at the door, and its desire is for you.” Genesis 4:7

HOW MIGHT “GIVING THE DEVIL TOPOS” AFFECT THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER?

COULD THIS HAVE ANY LINK TO MATT. 18:34-35? *“And his lord, moved with anger handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each one of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”*

What if a child is repeatedly abused by his parents and doesn't know to forgive them, does the devil still get "topos"?

What if you mistakenly believe, as I did that "Good mature Christians don't get angry" or "forgive and forget".

I believe that my heart had deceived me. It wanted to hang on to its right to hate and judge. Notice what James 1: 21-22 says "*therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted **which is able to save your souls.** But prove yourselves doers of the word and not merely hearers who DELUDE themselves.*"

James was written to "brethren". If they are saved why does he say they have to put aside what remains of wickedness and filthiness and do something to get SAVED?

CAN IT BE THAT WE ARE SAVED INSTANTLY- AS FAR AS OUR ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP, AND YET WE HAVE TO SAVED PROGRESSIVELY AS FAR AS OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

Phil 2:12-13

*So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.***

Symptoms of a wounded heart:

1. Depression
2. Difficulty focusing on the task at hand.
3. Strong temptations with sexual sin and lust.
4. Trying to comfort yourself with drugs, alcohol, sex, food etc.
5. Feeling safer alone. Isolating from those that love you.
6. Your quiet times with God are empty...God doesn't show up.
7. Angry outbursts at loved ones.
8. Struggling with opposing thoughts in your head.
9. Chronic health problems.
10. Financial restrictions:

QUESTIONS:

1. Have I given the devil “topos” by allowing myself to have unresolved relationships?
2. How strong is my fellowship with the Father?
3. Am I living in a prison?
5. Holy Spirit if there is someone I need to forgive?