

## Don't Live in Vain

### Ephesians 4:17 (ESV)

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the **futility** of their minds.

- "Say and testify" shows strong emphasis
- Gentiles who are now part of the "one new man" must not live like they used to
- Futile living is what happens with no valid revelation from God

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## Dark, Alienated Minds

### Ephesians 4:18a (ESV)

They are darkened in their understanding, **alienated from the life of God**

- Conversion brings light to dark minds
- We were dead in sin—alienated (Eph. 2:1)
- Those who are dead spiritually never had the life of God
- God's light and life come from Christ as a gift to those who believe (John 8:12)

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## Hard Hearts Cause Ignorance

### Ephesians 4:18b (ESV)

...because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

- Ignorance does not imply a lack of accountability (Romans 1:20)
- Ignorance is *agnoia* and needs to be confronted with the gospel (Acts 17:22, 23)
- The gospel is public truth and calls all into account (Acts 17:30)

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## Implications and Applications

- Do not listen to false teachers who promote illegitimate freedom
- Only God can cure hardness of heart
- The only way out of darkness is to come to the true light

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## False Teachers Entice With Lust

### 2 Peter 2:18 (LEB)

For by speaking high-sounding but **empty words**, they entice with **desires of the flesh** and with **licentiousness** those who are scarcely escaping from those who live in **error**

- “Empty” is the same word translated “futility” in Ephesians 4:17
- False teachers seduce with lust
- “Error” is *plane\_* (as in Ephesians 4:14)

## Deceivers Offer Fake Freedom

### 2 Peter 2:19 (LEB)

**promising them freedom** although they themselves are **slaves of depravity**. For to whatever someone succumbs, by this he is also enslaved.

- Being “free” to sin is in reality slavery
- “Depravity” is *phthora* which denotes ruin, decay, spoiling, or corruption
- The false teachers are enslaved by lust and they seduce others to join them

## Only God Can Change the Heart

### Ezekiel 11:19, 20 (NASB)

“And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And **I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh**, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.”

## Jesus Alone Brings True Light

### John 12:46 (NASB)

“I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.”

- Jesus promised that those who follow Him will have light (John 8:12)
- Jesus came into the world as true light, but men loved darkness (John 3:19)