

Ephesians Series

Lesson #158

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Return to Spiritual Virtue

Ephesians 4:18–20



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Eph. 4:17, “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

Eph. 4:18, “having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

Eph. 4:19, “who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

~NKJV

Eph. 4:20, “But you have not learned Christ in such a way,”

~RD

**Eph. 4:18, “having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;”
~NKJV**

πώρωσις pōrōsis
fem sing nom
stubbornness

The lexical problem: blind or hardened?

“The word conveys the idea of callus that serves as mortar (thus petrification) to reunite the surfaces of fractured bones or a pus which comes out of the bone and produces callus ... In Job 17:7 it refers to the eyes growing dim.”

~Harold W. Hoehner, *Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary* 588.

Definition of “callus:” [*Concise Oxford English Dictionary, COED*]

- 1. a thickened and hardened part of the skin or soft tissue, especially one caused by friction.**
- 2. Medicine: the bony healing tissue which forms around the ends of broken bone.**
- 3. Botany: a hard formation of tissue, especially new tissue formed over a wound.**

Old Testament use of *porosis*:

**Job 17:7, “My eye has also grown dim because of sorrow,
and all my members are like shadows.” ~NKJV**

Usage in the New Testament

Mark 3:5, “And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.”

Rom. 11:25, “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness [hardness] in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.” [blindness in KJV, NKJV, and hardness in ESV, NET, NASB95]

John 12:40, “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.”

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**τυφλόω *tuphloō*
3 sing perf act
indic to blind**

**πωρόω *pōroō*
3 sing aor act indic
to harden, make
stubborn; become dim**

Rom. 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,”

Eph. 4:17, “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

Eph. 4:18, “having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

Eph. 4:19, “who, being past feeling**, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.**

~NKJV

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Eph. 4:19, “who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.” ~NKJV

ἀπαλγέω apalgeō

**perfect act causal part masc plur nom
to lose all feeling; “*who because they are past feeling*” it has the sense of being callous, insensible to pain, apathetic (Thayer)**

The perfect tense indicates a completed past action.

Eph. 4:19, “who having become callous, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.” ~RD

ἀπαλγέω apalgeō

perfect act causal part masc plur nom

to lose all feeling; “*who because they are past feeling*” it has the sense of

being callous, insensible to pain,

apathetic (Thayer)

The perfect tense indicates a completed past action.

παραδίδομι

paradidōmi

**3 plur aor act indic
to deliver, deliver
over, give over**

Eph. 4:17, “... you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their thinking, ~RD

“Because their understanding has already been darkened because they were already alienated from the life of God,” ~RD

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1 Cor. 2:14, “But the soulish (unsaved) man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God [things revealed in the Old Testament, 1 Cor. 2:9], for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned [no human spirit (Jude 19)].

John 6:45, “It is written in the prophets, ‘*And they shall all be taught by God.*’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.”

John 12:32, “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”

Eph. 4:17, “... you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their thinking,” ~RD

Reason 1: Because their understanding has already been darkened because they were already alienated from the life of God, [RD]

Reason 2: Because of the ignorance that is in them,

Reason 3: Because of the callousness [obdurate, unresponsive, dullness, insensibility, obstinacy, apathetic] of their heart,

~COED: “stubbornly refusing to change one’s opinion or course of action.”

Eph. 4:19, “who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.” ~NKJV

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to lose all feeling; “*who because they are past feeling*” it has the sense of

being callous, insensible to pain,

apathetic (Thayer)

The perfect tense indicates a completed past action.

Eph. 4:19, “who, being past feeling, have given themselves antinomianism (immoral relativism), to work all uncleanness with greediness.” ~NKJV

ἀσέλγεια *aselgeia*

fem sing dat

sensuality; unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence:

lack of self-constraint which involves one in conduct that violates all bounds of what is socially acceptable, self-abandonment.

Eph. 4:19, “who, being past feeling, have given themselves antinomianism (immoral relativism), to work all uncleanness with greediness.” ~NKJV

ἐργασία *ergasia*

fem sing acc

work, gain, profit

“to work toward the goal of ...”

Eph. 4:19, “who, being past feeling, have given themselves antinomianism (immoral relativism), to work toward the goal of all uncleanness with greediness.” ~NKJV

ἐργασία *ergasia*

fem sing acc

work, gain, profit

“to work toward the goal of ...”

ἀκαθαρσία *akatharsia*

fem sing gen

uncleanness

Eph. 4:19, “who, being past feeling, have given themselves antinomianism (immoral relativism), to work toward the goal of all uncleanness with greediness.” ~NKJV

ἐργασία *ergasia*

fem sing acc

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“to work toward the goal of ...”

ἀκαθαρσία *akatharsia*

fem sing gen

uncleanness

πλεονεξία *pleonexia*

fem sing dat greediness;

lust; advantage, avarice

Eph. 5:3, “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;”

Col. 3:5, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

2 Pet. 2:14, “having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.”

The Contrast:

Eph. 4:20, “But you have not so learned Christ,” ~NKJV

Eph. 4:21, “if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:” ~NKJV