Dear Reader,

I am new to producing reading sermons. So, if you have any suggestions as to how I might improve my format or what I include – please email me at cdanielwilson@gmail.com. **I will warn you, that I do not use short sentences**. I will endeavor to work on this over time, but I don’t naturally write that way. However, you can easily break most of my longer sentences into 2 or 3 smaller ones where I have “…” or “–“ or commas. If you do the work on making it into smaller sentences – feel free to email it to me, and I am happy to share your work with others. I do have some of these available which people have sent me. I will eventually make them available as part of the normal manuscripts.

I have left my sermon manuscript formatted the way I normally write and read my sermons. They are colourful and written in conversational English. If you are a grammar nazi – then you will be frustrated with my punctuation and phrasing. However, once you read it out loud, you will normally be able to tell what I meant to say. SERIOUSLY, READ IT OUTLOUD. You will also see that I use a good bit of bold, italics, underlining and different colours to signal what are the most important things to say, and also to make it easier for my eye to pick up my place in the middle of paragraphs. I would recommend that you keep as many of those things as possible to help you keep your place. However, you will probably want to increase the spacing between lines. I highly encourage you to commit as much of the introduction or children’s illustrations to memory as you can, so that these can be delivered to the congregation with maximum eye contact.

**Where possible, I highly recommend that you listen to the sermon as I preached it at either the Nelson website or the website of North Shore.** I recommend that because that will also help hear the places where I added or skipped over material in the manuscript, and the places where I clarified my meaning. I have edited bits and pieces which I thought most important, but I have not sought to include all the additional material that comes to me while in the pulpit. I would practically have to use a transcription service for that. However, I hope and pray that this sermon will be a blessing to you and to your congregation. To God be the Glory!

Blessings in our Lord, Pastor Daniel Wilson

**My Suggestions for the Order of Service**

Song before the service: #100

We gather as God’s redeemed to Affirm that: ***OUR Help is in ...***

*As we do so,* ***We Receive God’s Greeting… Grace and Peace to you from God/Father/Son/HS.* Amen**

Let us respond to God’s call to worship Him **#105B vs1-3 “Give thanks to the Lord God”**

***PLEASE REMAIN STANDING as we profess our faith using the Apostles Creed*** *Forms and Confessions pg.8* *Please be seated (or front hymnals)*

***And now we will read from the Heidelberg Catechism – Lord’s Day #33 (#86) F&Conf. Pg41***

**Congregational Prayer**

**Let’s now cont. To worship as we bring to the Lord His Tithes and our Freewill offerings:** ***As the Deacons come ...***

*Let’s cont. to worship as we sing* **Our Song of Prep: Psalm #371 “Speak O Lord”**

***Sermon Text: Ephesians 4:17-5:2 (22-24) Sermon Title: “You can’t stay Naked…”***

***Let us now sing a* song of Response *–* Psalm #197 “What God ordains is always right”**

***May the Lord*** *bless you & keep you,* ***May the Lord*** *turn His face toward you & be gracious to you,* ***May the Lord*** *lift up his countenance upon you & give you peace!* ***Amen***

**\* Doxology: Song #106 vs 1+19“Praise the Lord, Extol His Goodness!”**

# **Evening Sermon: “You Can’t Stay Naked…” Heidelberg #39**

Text: Ephesians 4:22-24 (read 4:17-5:2) Reading: LD33

**Introduction:** Children: If you played in a big mud puddle and got covered in mud – your parents would probably make you get a bath or shower. So, you take all the muddy clothes off and get clean in the nice warm water. And when you are all clean, do you dry off and put your muddy wet clothes on again?! ***NO!*** Or at least, you shouldn’t… because then you would get all dirty again. So, What do you do? Do you clean up and then stay naked?! If you can’t put your muddy clothes on, then you don’t put any clothes on right? ***NO!*** You have to have clean clothes, Don’t you! ***Then*** you can play or eat dinner or go to bed… You see, once you are all clean: you can’t put your dirty clothes on again, and you can’t stay naked, So you have to put on clean clothes… This sounds so silly, because it is just good common sense, right?

(**Context**) But I highlight this to you, because in Ephesians chapter 4, the Apostle Paul tells us that this same basic principle applies to you spiritually as well! There he explains to the Ephesians that they since they had been washed clean by faith in Christ, they couldn’t keep their dirty clothes on! They had to ***put off*** the Old Man of Sin. And they couldn’t stay naked either (as if you can be neutral in life without being either good or bad) ***NO!*** They had to be renewed in the attitude of their minds by putting on the New Man (made in the image of Christ) – That New Self was their new clean clothes *if you will*…

***In fact, Paul makes the case that****:*

***Theme: Putting OFF Sin and Putting ON Christ are necessary elements of the Gospel & Christianity.***

*We will examine the text under 3 points:*

1. **A Necessary Element of the Gospel**
2. **The Putting OFF of Sin**
3. **The Putting ON of Christ**

*Let’s begin by taking a general look at:*

# **A Necessary Element of the Gospel (REPEAT)**

* 1. *Fundamentally, putting off the old man of sin is***A Necessary Element of the Gospel**

Just think about what the Gospel really is! It is the “good news” of a free salvation from sin, death and hell! All that is required is faith that Christ died for your sins! When we believe, we turn *from sin* **to** New obedience in Christ. **We are only saved by Faith**, but as we saw last week, *if we have true faith*: ***we will love, obey, and serve Christ.***

**Paul proves this in verses 17-21.** There Paul reminded the Ephesians of the Pagan way of life. It is dark with ignorance, impurity and a continual lust for more… But the Ephesian Christians were surely not taught to live that way! *Surely that way of life doesn’t match the Gospel of Christ!*

The NASB translates vs.20-21 powerfully: *But you did not learn Christ this way, IF INDEED you Have heard Him, and have been taught in Him…* You see, ***Paul is stressing that True Christians cannot live, work or think like Pagans!*** If we have, in fact, heard Christ and been taught the Gospel, ***then*** we must put off the old man of sin!

* 1. **You need to notice the Drastic change that you have undergone in Christ!**

In salvation you have been transferred from death to life, from slavery to sonship, from outer darkness to God’s marvelous light – there can’t be a bigger change than this in all the world! Such a change will necessarily impact your actions/attitudes – and everything in your life! **Paul notes the massive contrast between what we were as unbelievers, and what we are now in Christ:**

***Think of it this way:*** The Old Man is a dead body buried in a grave six feet under. He is corrupt and decaying… on his way to being nothing but dust. The New Man is a young man: alive, strong and growing. But this New Man isn’t just a normal young man – he has been created to be like God Himself – specifically to look more and more like Christ!

*While we are saved by faith* – that salvation teaches us to put OFF the Old Man and to put ON new obedience in Christ. *And that is a work which will continue until we are perfected in Glory.*

*So, let’s dig into what this Putting OFF of Sin really is –* ***and That is our Second Point****:*

# **The Putting OFF of Sin (REPEAT)**

* 1. **Why do we Put OFF the Old Man/Nature?**

***For 3 Reasons:***

**FIRST:** Because the Old Man is already dead… Paul tells us in Romans that we died with Christ. The Old Man has been killed – so why would you keep him around? ***If a good friend died,* You *would never keep their dead, decaying body around the house, would* You*?*** HOW MUCH LESS should you keep the rotting corpse of our ENEMY the Old MAN of Sin?! ***Keeping the Old Man around is just as deadly as keeping the body of someone who died from the plague – We are bound to get sick!***

**Second,You *put Off the Old Self*:** Because it is a part of our former life… We no longer belong to the World – we are in the World, but not of it! *We must break free from the way the World lives!* What would you think of a freed slave who kept working for the same old master as if he were still a slave? We would think, **“He is free to go and live and be his own master… and yet he stays a slave?! – What a Fool!”** *And yet, as we condemn such a man, we condemn ourselves.* For we have been freed from the obligation/slavery to sin, but we keep returning to that same old master… **What fools we are! *IF you are Free, LIVE LIKE IT!***

**Third, You put Off the Old Man:** Because it is being corrupted by deceitful lusts. The Old Man is a mess of rotting sin. They say, one rotten apple can ruin the whole barrel, and I have seen that happen. **We had one bad apple in a bag, and the apples around it had begun to go bad too** – Our Old man is corrupted by deceitful lusts and that evil will spread throughout our lives if we allow it to stick around. **You can’t keep sin in one area of life and not have it affect the rest of your life**. ***Therefore, you must put it off!***

* 1. ***But,*****How do you do this?**

***Paul explains this simply in vs.21***: *in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the OLD SELF.*

This might sound harsh or strange to many of you, but **Paul simply calls you to ACT.** He doesn’t tell you to pray about it, or to ask around for advice, or to use some special methodology or medicine. ***He simply says you lay aside the old self.***

**But we would turn to Paul and say,** *“Um, Paul, Sir… you don’t understand, I really have a problem with gluttony or Lust…”* And Paul would respond, “**Oh, OK, So STOP IT – lay it aside!**” “*But I can’t, I prayed and prayed, but nothing works!”* **And Paul would lovingly answer, “Right, so lay it aside, REPENT and Obey!”** Now, Some of you may doubt that is what Paul is saying here – **but it is… he simply calls you to action.** Now, I am not saying you shouldn’t pray about putting off some sin – ***but when the rubber hits the road,*** *you really just have to stop that sin (stop gossiping with your friends) and replace it with obedience.*

**Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones actually entitled one of his sermons on this text: “WHEN *NOT* TO PRAY!”** You must not pray for guidance on what to do, *when the Lord’s will is clear!* You don’t need to pray about whether or not to go to Church/Worship – cause God already gave you the answer – **so Just Do It!** I think that Paul would have liked that Nike slogan, “God said stop sinning and obey – SO JUST DO IT!” You don’t need to pray about whether or when you should stop sinning… *if you do*  ***you are insulting your Lord.***

**Consider a child.** Mom has given an order – it was clear, with no ambiguity. “Honey, GO Clean up your room or you’ll be in trouble…” What would a mother think if that child came back 25x asking, “are you sure I need to clean up my room? *Is now the right time for this?* Shouldn’t I be focusing on something else more important? I am not sure how to do it the best way… Wouldn’t you rather I play with my toys instead of cleaning? **Etc etc…** ***THAT Child would be in serious trouble*** – for those questions are the epitome of disrespect/disregard for the mother’s authority. That Child simply needs to obey. **AND SO DO YOU and I AS BELIEVERS –** Our Heavenly Father has told us to PUT OFF the Old Man of Sin – and we just need to OBEY!

**Now we can never simply put sin off without replacing it.** Just like a child who puts off their muddy wet clothes, they don’t stay naked, they need clean clothes.

Likewise, when you have PUT OFF the Old Man of Sin, THEN you must put on Christ, ***And that is our 3rd point***:

# **The Putting ON of Christ (REPEAT)**

* 1. **Why do we Put ON the New Man?**

*For 3 Reasons:*

**FIRST:** Because as we just stated: **something must replace the old man** – you can’t just be naked! *Jesus warned of Danger of simply getting rid of demons without replacing them with something else* – Luke 11:24-26, Jesus taught that if you cast out a demon without replacing him with the Holy Spirit, then that Demon will wander for a time, and then return and bring 7 other demons more wicked than himself! *And so the latter end of that man is worse than before.* **The Same is true if you get rid of one vice/sin without replacing it with Godly behavior.** JUST AS AN EXAMPLE: How many times have we heard of smokers who quit smoking, but then started drinking and overeating – and fell back into smoking? That is that same idea that Jesus was explaining – **We have to replace bad behaviors with good behaviors or we end up worse than ever.**

**Second, YOU put ON the New Self:** Because Christ already saved us from sin! When you believed, you became new creatures in Christ. Ephesians 2:10 says that we were *created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we would walk in them.* If you were saved and re-created to do good works – then you need to get with the program!

**Third, You put ON the New Self:** Because you ***are*** what you ***worship***: You are called to worship Christ your Savior and your God, and so you must look and act accordingly. If your life doesn’t reflect Christ – then you aren’t worshipping Him as you ought. God repeatedly has warned His people that ***when we worship idols, then we become like them= blind, deaf and dumb.* But when we worship Christ we look and act like Him!**

* 1. So: **How Do you do this?**

*As I already mentioned:* What you have to do is *be renewed in the spirit/attitude of your mind* – and Paul explains that phrase, by saying you need to put on the new self. ***That means that we need to start changing our lives by FIRST addressing our thoughts/attitudes,*** *and our actions will follow our changed hearts****.* BUT, when it gets down to it, we need to ACT and Obey.** This isn’t a works salvation. Paul has clearly laid the foundation early in Ephesians: *that we are saved by God’s grace through faith according to God’s eternal plan*. AND NOW THAT YOU ARE SAVED, You need to put on Christian living. AND THAT TAKES HARD WORK! I can’t sugar coat it for you… the whole idea of ***let go and let God*** is a rotten lie of Satan. Because when you let go of your actions, you are really letting go of Christ. And the subtlety of Satan shows in the fact that so many professing believers think they are being good when they let go and let God – but they aren’t. **We must practically identify our sin to put off, then replace it with its Godly counterpart.**

If this seems obscure or difficult – the Apostle Paul actually gives us examples from vs.25 to the beginning of chapter 5! **He says:**

* put off lying and put on speaking the truth, (vs.25)
* put off unrestrained anger and put on restraint and quick reconciliation! (Vs.26-27)
* put off stealing and put on working hard and generous giving, (vs.28)
* put off unwholesome talk and put on up-building encouraging speech,
* put off grieving the Spirit (bitterness, wrath, anger/rage, clamor/brawling, slander, and malice) and put on kindness, tender-hearted compassion, and a spirit of forgiveness just as Christ forgave you
* Finally… Put off imitating Satan, and BE IMITATORS OF GOD…

**Conclusion: So How do you begin doing this on a daily basis?**

Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones gave some very helpful practical advice:

* **Tell yourself in the morning who you are (talk to self, don’t listen to self or to satan)**
* **Resist the groan of another day, put off the old man! (***put off the happy sad cycle of the world – live 4 wkend***)**
* **Don’t start the day with prayer of depression … *Oh God help me trudge through another day… blah blah blah*** that isn’t praying in the Spirit! **that is prayer of unbelief!** *REMIND YOURSELF YOU ARE A NEW MAN IN CHRIST!*
* **Remind yourself of what the old man is… Don’t be afraid of it, it is corrupt and DEAD!** *SO BURY IT! (oh can’t win)*
* **Impress upon yourself inconsistency of living as the old, bitter, corrupted man when in fact you are a new creature in Christ! Engrafted into the vine of Christ!!** The Spiritual power that raised Christ from the dead is living and flowing into you through faith in Christ **– WHY LIVE IN THE WAY OF THE DEAD when you have such life within?! Put OFF the Old Man… and Be RENEWED in the Attitude of your Mind – by putting on the Lord Jesus Christ! Amen**