

REVERSIONISM

Every idea that we adopt & use forms habitual thinking. The more we use an idea, the easier it is to use and the more habituated – automatic the idea becomes. These ideas become automatic thinking, lost to conscious awareness operating out of the subconscious. This concept explains the slavery of Rom 6 & also the idea of momentum, either spiritual or evil. The result of rejecting truth & moving away from God is Reversionism, which turns into a fixed state of hostility toward God, locked into evil thinking.

4:1-7 Union with Christ – Unity of the Spirit – walk worthy
4:8-10 Descended – Ascended to right hand of God
4:11-16 Sp. Gifts serving Sp. Growth – individual & corporate
4:17-19 Living like the Gentiles (unbelievers) - alienated from God, emptiness of their minds

17 – therefore: vs 1-16, maximize our unity in Christ by growing individually & together in love

- think & live like unbelievers renders us incapable of living out the Christian life

17 – I say & testify: give testimony – He had witnessed many believers destroy their lives (4:1 beg)

17 – no longer: saved out of old way of life but had returned to it; calling them back out again

17 – vanity of mind – *mataiotes* – emptiness, worthless – useless logic & philosophical approach to life

- Unbeliever's thinking is devoid of God, GHS, even if moral, it is worthless to connect with God
- Believer who is enabled to operate in spiritual realm, returns to focus on worthless human logic.

Reverse Order

18 – hardness of heart → ignorance in them → state of alienation from life God → thinking darkened

18 - hard heart - reject/truth, negative God's word; Ex Gen Heb 3:7-12; Pharaoh Ex 4:21, 7:3, 14:4

18 – ignorance in them – *agnoia* – w/out knowledge of God and His plan; confusion about salvation

18 – having become alienated from life of God – *eimi* PPtC + *apallotriomai* PfPPtC – periphrastic

18 – darkened mind – skotizo PfPPtC – fixed state of soul blacked out – only evil all the time.

Present/Perfect Periphrastic – a) uses 2 verbs when 1 will suffice to show emphasis b) PfPPtC- Perf: process leading to a completed, fixed state; Pass: result of other choices; c) alienated – to hold hostile ideas against God d) PPtC *eimi* – resulting ongoing state of being alienated, remain hostile.

- a) Focus of text is alienation from God causing the mind to be filled with evil thinking – periphrastic
- b) Rejection of truth (gospel or word) hardens heart → remain ignorant of truth → develops into a state of hostility toward God & all that He calls right → mind locked into evil thinking.
- c) Reject truth → process eventuating in a fixed state with ongoing results – hostility & evil

19 – become callous – *apalgeo* PfAPtC – w/out feeling, numb, insensitive, shameless – having ignored conscience for so long, you can't feel shame. Pf – fixed state; Act – choose to enter this state rather than turn around & move toward God.

19 – given self over – abandoned themselves to ignore all boundaries to do any-every thing

19 – sensuality – lasciviousness; hedonism; to produce immorality, driven by greed.

- a) Rejection of God & truth opens the door to explore lascivious living, seeking for happiness
- b) Lasciviousness requires more & greater degrees of lasciviousness to satisfy & fulfill
- c) Normally life w/out boundaries produces shame until we stop feeling to avoid shame
- d) Once we continually violate our conscience, we eventually abandon self to pursue pleasure
- e) Our life becomes a frantic search for pleasure, driven by the need to experience more and more

Rom 6:19 -enslaved to immorality resulting in greater & greater levels of lawlessness

Reversionism – Backsliding

Definition: to revert back from moving in a spiritual direction to moving away from God toward a self-centered, worldly way of life.

- a) Salvation – enter into Transformation process, renewing the mind, moving toward maturity, removing habitual OM beliefs/behaviors while replacing them with NM beliefs & behaviors.
- b) Reversionism stops moving toward God, neglects spiritual growth, even rejects truth, becoming preoccupied with pleasure through worldliness.

Illustrations of Reversionism

Heb 6:4-6 ⁴ It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶ and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

4 – impossible – a noun serving as a main verb for 5 aorist participles – extreme emphasis having once been **enlightened** – ministry of GHS Eph 1:18; **tasting** heavenly gift; **became** sharers of GHS, **tasting** word of God – these phrases indicate a saved, secure, growing believers

⁶ – falling away AAPtc – choosing by own volition to deviate from the path

⁶ – to renew unto repentance, while they are crucifying again the Son of God, shaming Him openly

- Saved, secure & growing but became dull of hearing 5:11, ought to be teachers but reverted
- Jewish believers under social pressure to return to temple worship – crucifying Son of God
- Heb 10:26-27; 36-39 – Jewish believers abandoned growth, opened their hearts to return to Shadow Christology – can't come to repentance while they continue to believe & live by OT shadows rather than truth.

Gal 3:1-5 – began with the Spirit but eventually rejected grace to believe in works for spirituality

- In reversionism we become open to the devil's lies, that we would have rejected before

Act 20-21 – Paul rejects the will of God to go to Jerusalem, to prove his Apostleship to all

- Phil 3 he discusses the great lessons he learned about putting off his OM agenda

2Sam 11-12- David gets in trouble with Bathsheba – violated will of God in many ways

Reasons for Reversionism

1. Boredom – 2Sam 11 - David; God's word & will are not exciting enough, need a little worldliness
2. Reaction to Suffering – bitterness & self-pity – 2Sam 16-17 Ahithophel – Bathsheba's grandfather
3. Old Man ambition – Paul – Acts 20-21 His desire for recognition caused him to reject God's will
 - We lose interest in learning God's word – bored with bible study
 - We allow desire for worldly things to take precedence over desire for God's will
 - We react with anger, bitterness or self-pity when suffering & injustice comes our way

Rejecting God's word or will makes us vulnerable to believe lies & to eventually hate who/what we once loved and love who/what we once despised – **Reverse Process Reversionism**

- Paul did more to help the Corinthian church than anyone. Yet in reversionism, the one they should have loved and appreciated became the object of hatred & rejection.

2Cor 7:2-4; 2Cor 11

Recovery – Heb 6:1 – rebuild what was lost & press on toward maturity – resume spiritual growth & advance; correct obedience issues, reject worldly distractions – pursue God.