

YOU SHOULD NO LONGER WALK AS THE NATIONS WALK

Eph'siyim/Ephesians 4:17-32

18th of the 10th month 2021/2022

Shalom,

Debarim/Deuteronomy 18:9 “When you come into the land which **דְּהַרָה** your Elohim is giving you, do not learn to do according to the abominations of those nations.”

Do not learn to do according to the abominations of the nations!

This was a very clear command that was given to Yisra'el when they were in the Wilderness, yet as we know, this very clear command was not guarded, which resulted in the House of Yisra'el being divorced and scattered among the nations and the House of Yehudah being taken into captivity for 70 years.

In the great compassion of our Master and Elohim, He has given us a way to be delivered from the futile ways of the nations that do not know Him.

He is lovingly-committed to the Covenants of promise, from which we were once far from and without Elohim in the world:

Eph'siyim/Ephesians 2:11-13 “Therefore remember that you, once nations in the flesh, who are called ‘the uncircumcision’ by what is called ‘the circumcision’ made in the flesh by hands, ¹² that at that time you were without Messiah, excluded from the citizenship of Yisra'el and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no expectation and without Elohim in the world. ¹³ But now in Messiah **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ** you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah.”

What Sha'ul was clearly reminding the believers in Ephesos, as well as all of us today, is that we should remember that we were once very far off and excluded from the citizenship of Yisra'el and that we were strangers from the covenants of promise and were without a Saviour and Elohim.

Having been brought near by the blood of Messiah, we are therefore called to remember who we now are.

We are The Bride of Messiah and we must live like it and no longer live as we used to, when we were excluded from being a part of His Bride!

An often-repeated message, that we see all throughout Scripture, is one of coming out and being separate and living set-apart lives, as we are called to pursue apartness.

This entails that we do our utmost, in making sure that we no longer do as we used to do, when we were strangers to the Covenants of Promise!

Why we see this theme, or call, being repeatedly expressed, is obvious! It is because so many people, who have heard the call to come out, are still doing what the nations, who do not know Elohim, are doing!

As we allow The Word to cleanse us from all unrighteousness and teach us the set-apart way, we must make sure that we do not have any old grave clothes on, so to speak, as we are to put off all dead works and be clothed in righteousness, as we guard to do all our Master, Saviour and Elohim commands us.

In a message called, **“YOU SHOULD NO LONGER WALK AS THE NATIONS WALK!”** I would like us to look at some of the words that Sha’ul wrote to the believers in Ephesos and be reminded against today, on how we are to be dressed, as a Bride who is making Herself ready for our soon coming King.

Please read **Eph’siyim/Ephesians 4:17-32**

In **Hazon/Revelation 2:1-7** we are given the message that was to be spoken to the assembly in Ephesos.

While this assembly had done many works and had endurance, we take note of the clear thing that the Master had held against them, and that was that they had lost their first love. They were commanded to remember from where they had fallen and repent and do the first works!

Ephesos was the most important commercial city of Asia Minor.

Sha’ul brought the Besorah to Ephesos and stayed there for 3 years and all Asia Minor heard the Good News, because of that which Sha’ul did when he separated the taught ones and reasoned daily in the school of Turannos for two years.

He later sent Timotiyo to oversee the assembly there.

Yoḥanan, in his later years, moved to Ephesos – and this once very vibrant assembly had lost its first love!

This letter was written at least 35 years after Sha’ul had established this assembly, which teaches us how quickly a true fervent and zealous love can grow cold.

But how does it grow cold so quickly?

The answer is very simple!

When you continue to walk as the nations walk, then you will grow cold in your love for the Truth!

In Apostolic times, Ephesos contained some influential buildings: The temple of Diana, who was also known as Artemis, was a temple that was built to worship the Greek pagan mighty one Artemis, and this temple was included as one of the 7 ancient wonders of the world!

The people of Ephesos worshipped Artemis and believed that she had fallen down from Zeus and that the city of Ephesos was the guardian of her temple (**Ma’asei/Acts 19:35**).

Therefore Ephesos was a major centre of false worship!

It also had a theatre, which was the largest structure of its kind to be built by the Greeks and was believed to be able to seat up to 50 000 people.

It was, therefore, a major centre for the arts and theatre.

It also had a stadium, or circus, which was an arena where the people of Ephesos witnessed foot races, wrestling matches, as well as fights with wild beasts. The competitors were usually criminals, who were sent naked into the arena to be torn to pieces by wild beasts.

Sha'ul actually used this as an analogy of how he had fought wild beasts in Ephesos as men do (**Qorintiyim Aleph/1 Corinthians 15:32**) and teaches us that evil company corrupts good habits.

Often, the remains of the victims were exposed and put on display at the end of a combat, which gives us a vivid picture of what Sha'ul wrote in **Qorintiyim Aleph/1 Corinthians 4:9**, where he wrote how some of the emissaries who were put to death became a spectacle to the world!

We take note how depraved this behaviour was and how it pleased the nations to see true believers being made a spectacle of before the whole world.

Some of these games were held in honour of Artemis and in Ephesos there was a man named Demetrios, who was a silversmith, and he had made silver shrines of Artemis that were sold to visitors.

Sha'ul is the one who they got angry with, when he persuaded the people that these shrines were worthless and not mighty ones at all.

This caused a huge uproar in the city, as they were losing business because of the Good News that Sha'ul was bringing.

You can read about this in **Ma'asei/Acts 19**.

Why I am mentioning this to you, is to highlight the state of this wicked city and how this was a centre for false worship, arts, sports (including wicked, cruel and blood hungry games) and business!

This thriving worldly city had a major influence on the believers.

And this is what Sha'ul was clearly addressing in his letter to them.

This letter to the set-apart ones in Ephesos, has great significance for us today, as we recognise that the world that we live in is very similar, in type, to the Ephesos of old.

Sha'ul had taken the Good News and had caused many, who were once far off from the Covenants of promise and without Elohim in the world, to hear the Good News and be brought near by the Blood of Messiah.

This would have caused them to repent and turn away from wicked worldly ways and serve our Master in Spirit and Truth.

While this may have begun with great zeal for the truth, it did not take long for many of those who had repented, to be influenced once again by the corrupt practices and lifestyles that they had separated themselves from.

This is a vital lesson for us today, as being one that teaches us the importance for us to understand that while we are in the world we are not of the world; that is to say that we are no longer to do as the nations do and we are to guard ourselves from any form of corruption and defilement of the flesh through any kind of compromise!

The call to remember from where you have fallen, given to this assembly in **Hazon/Revelation2**, was a call given to a backsliding assembly, calling them to remember the first love of true zeal and committed obedience that they had fallen from, due to the negative influence of the evil that they lived in the midst of!

They had certainly done many works and displayed much endurance, yet were clearly being influenced by the wicked culture of the day and had fallen from complete set-apartness!

They were trying to live set-apart lives and be dressed in righteousness, while still wearing old garments, so to speak.

This is the same fault that we see with many people today, who claim to be walking in the Truth, and this teaches us the urgency of the need to have having ears that will hear and grab hold of the Truth with a fervent love and run in the way of the commands of Elohim and be done with old ways!

In this section of the letter that Sha'ul wrote to the set-apart ones in Ephesos, we take note of his urgent appeal to the believers that he had taught, which was to put off, with extreme urgency, the old and put on the renewed!

After having explained the clear structure of the body and how The Master has appointed some to teach, equip and bring His Bride to maturity, so that the body would no longer be like children that are tossed and borne about by every wind of teaching and led astray, he began to remind them that they were to now no longer to walk as the nations walk.

It must had been extremely difficult to live as a set-apart one of The Master in Ephesos, as the influence of the evil culture of the day and the pressure of the things of the flesh, would have caused many of the believers to fall from their steadfast position in The Master and, as a result, lose that first love of committed obedience, by allowing little compromises to set in and become acceptable in their own eyes, in order to fit in to the society in which they lived, as they tried to survive day-to-day living.

Those same dangers are as real for us today as they were back then to the set-apart believers who lived in the midst of wickedness and corruption and we need to continually be on guard against the subtle influence of evil, as it will come at us through various forms of twisted worship practices and false traditions of man.

It will also come at us through the visual arts, entertainment and sport, as well as the luring deception of money and the various business ways of sinful man that oppresses the poor and needy!

When I say arts, entertainment and sport, please understand that I am not against the wonderful expression of the many talents and gifts that some have, but I am simply highlighting the effect that these things can have on a person's walk of set-apartness, especially when being influenced by worldly tastes that bring no honour and esteem to our Creator.

The point I am actually trying to make, is that Ephesos was no different to the corrupt and wicked generation that we are living in the midst of today, where false worship, entertainment, sport and business, play an influential role on people's daily lives!

Amidst this, we find many falling from steadfastness, under the extreme pressures of the things of the flesh and here, Sha'ul was reminding the believers back then, as well as us who are alive today, that we need to recognise that we are to make sure that we **no longer walk as the nations walk!**

He then sets forth a clear description, of how the nations walk and then he teaches us how we are to walk.

Our walk reflects our dress!

By that, I mean that we are able to establish whether a person is clothed in righteousness or not, by the way they walk or by the manner in which they live.

We are also able to see if the love of some have grown cold or not, by the manner in which they live and walk; as what will become clear and obvious, is the fact that old ways have not been put off, and when old ways have not been put off, then proper set-apartness cannot be pursued but rather, becomes corrupted and as defiled as the nations are!

You should no longer walk as the nations walk!

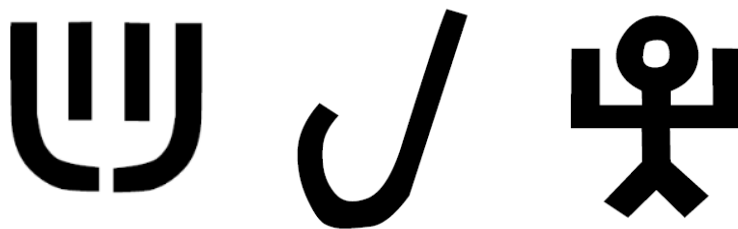
The Greek word for 'walk' is περιπατέω peripateō – Strong's G4043 which means, '**to walk, behaviour, to conduct one's self, to make one's way, to tread with the feet, to make one's life**', and is the Greek equivalent to the Hebrew root word הָלַךְ hā·lăk - Strong's H1980 which means, '**to walk, to live, manner of life, cause to live**', which literally speaks of how one lives.

It is used as a verb, indicating that it is an active expression of one's life.

the meaning, '**to go, to walk, come, proceed, depart, move, go away, to die, live, manner of life (figuratively)**'.


When one look at this root word in the ancient pictographic text, we are able to get a clearer understanding of how we are able to walk in complete obedience!

The Hebrew root word for walk - הָלַךְ halak - Strong's H1980, in the ancient pictographic script, looks like this:




Hey – הָ:




The ancient script has this letter pictured as , which is '**a man standing with his arms raised out**'. The meaning of the letter is "**behold, look, breath, sigh and reveal or revelation**", from the idea of revealing a great sight by pointing it out.

It also carries for us the meaning of surrender, as we lift up our hands and submit to יהוה as we lift our hands in praise, declaring His authority under which we humbly submit!

Lamed - ל:

The ancient script has this letter as , and is pictured as a '*shepherd's staff*', can give the meaning of '*to or toward*' and can represent that which pushes or pulls a flock in a direction, and can speak of *authority* or a yoke that is used to lead and guide, as well as the ability to bring back by Authority.

Kaph - כ:

The ancient form of this letter is  - meaning '*the open palm of a hand*'. The meaning behind this letter is '*to bend and curve*' from the shape of a palm as well as '*to tame or subdue*' as one has been bent to another's will (under their hand), as an open hand symbolises submission.

This also can picture for us a palm or palm branch from the curved palm shape. The hand also speaks of one's work, or under whose hand you submit and obey!

When we look at the letters that spell out the root word that for '*walk*' we are able to see a great declaration:

BEHOLD THE STAFF IN THE PALM!

With the picture of the shepherd's staff, and the open palm of the hand, we are able to see the concept of '*staff in the palm*' and we take note that a nomad that travelled on foot would have a staff in his hand in order to provide proper support in walking, as well as having a weapon in his hand to defend against predators and thieves!

We are to actively, and continually, be walking in Messiah, Our Good Shepherd, who leads us by the Authority of His Word:

Yohanan Aleph/1 John 2:6 "*The one who says he stays in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked.*"

The nations walk in the futility of their mind and have no proper understanding of the Truth!

The Greek word that is translated as '*futility*' is **ματαιότης mataiotēs** – Strong's G3153 which means, '*vanity, futility*', and this word is used in the LXX (Septuagint) and translated as '*falsehood*', when Dawid tells us the following, in:

Tehillah/Psalm 26:4 "*I have not sat with men of falsehood, nor do I enter with pretenders.*"

The Hebrew word that is translated here as **'falsehood'** comes from the root word שָׁוָה **shav** – Strong's H7723 which means, **'falsehood, lies, emptiness, worthlessness'**.

To **'sit'**, in Hebrew, is often used as an idiom for learning and what becomes clear here, is that we are not to learn the worthless ways of the world, but rather, we are to sit at the Master's feet and learn His ways, so that we can walk in complete set-apartness before Him!

The nations are darkened in their understanding and have been estranged from the life of Elohim, because of ignorance!

The Greek word that is translated as **'ignorance'**, in Eph'siyim/Ephesians 4:18 is ἄγνοια **agnoia** – Strong's G52 which means, **'ignorance, uninformed, lack of knowledge'**.
Estranged because of ignorance!

The Greek word translated as **'estranged'** in Eph'siyim/Ephesians 4:18 is ἀπαλλοτριώω **apallotriōō** – Strong's G526 which means, **'to alienate, estrange, excluded, be shut out from one's fellowship and intimacy'**; and one who has been estranged, is a stranger to the Covenants of Promise and is without Elohim in the world – all because of ignorance!

Have you ever heard people use the excuse of, **'But I did not know'**?

Or, have you ever found yourself excusing away ignorance, or the ignorance of others, due to the fact that they do not have the proper knowledge and have been misinformed?

We are expressly told the following, in:

Ma'asei/Acts 17:30 "Truly, then, having overlooked these times of ignorance, Elohim now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has set a day on which He is going to judge the world in righteousness by a Man whom He has appointed, having given proof of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Here, in this account, Sha'ul was addressing the very religious men of Athens, when he stood in the midst of the Areopagus and began to tell them who יהוה is.

They had altars to every mighty one imaginable and they even had one with the inscription **"TO THE UNKNOWN MIGHTY ONE"**, and in trying to appease the whole world, they wanted to cover all their bases of many proclaimed worship practices.

Sha'ul addresses these men very boldly and makes a very clear and profound statement, which clearly declares that ignorance of יהוה can no longer be accepted as an excuse!
Because of ignorance and hardness of heart, people are estranged from the life of Elohim!

The Greek word that is translated as **'hardened'** is the noun πώρωσις **pōrōsis** – Strong's G4457 which means, **'hard, blind, cover with a thick skin, hardened by covering with a callus'**, and comes from the verb πωρόω **pōrōō** – Strong's G4456 which means, **'to petrify, harden, blind, cover with a thick skin, to harden by covering with a callous'**, and

metaphorically, this Greek word is understood as having the meaning, ***'to make the heart dull, grow hard, become dull, lose the power of understanding'***.

This Greek word comes from the noun πῶρος pōros which is a stone, or a small piece of stone broken off from a larger one.

The verb means, ***'to harden, make hard like a stone, or callous and insensible to the touch'***.

This word can also have the understanding, in the Greek language, of a hardened mind, which highlights the reality of how so many are so 'hard-headed' and stubbornly refuse to repent, while they love to continually claim an ignorance, which we know can no longer be overlooked or used as an excuse! In fact, there are no excuses allowed!

The nations have a heart of stone and are ignorant, as they do not want to hear the truth, as they cover themselves with the thickened callouses of false traditions!

We too were once like the nations and had a hard heart of stone!

When we think of this word, in terms of a hard heart and the reference to it being likened to a stone, I am sure that the Scripture that comes to mind, is that which we find in

Yehezqël:

Yehezqël/Ezekiel 36:26-27 "And I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. And I shall take the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I shall give you a heart of flesh, 27 and put My Spirit within you. And I shall cause you to walk in My laws and guard My right-rulings and shall do them."

This is a wonderful promise that is given to the scattered House of Yisra'ël, that יהוה Himself would gather the House of Yisra'ël from among the nations and make His Name known and remove the hardness of heart, that had come over a sinful House that had profaned the Name of יהוה, and then He would put His Spirit in us and give us a heart of flesh, causing us walk in His laws and guard His right-rulings and do them!

This means that, by His Spirit, we will be able to understand and not be hardened by sin and lawlessness and therefore, be a people who will **'hear-guard and do'** His commands, that He writes on the fleshly tablets of our hearts, becoming true letters of our Master and Elohim, יהושע Messiah!

The Hebrew word that is translated as 'flesh' is בָּשָׂר basar – Strong's H1320 which means, ***'flesh, meat, men, body'*** and comes from the primitive root verb בָּשַׂר basar – Strong's H1319 which means, ***'to bear tidings, to bring good news, messenger of good news'***.

He takes the hardness and stubbornness of disobedience out and puts His Good News in us, equipping to walk in the Spirit, by waking according to His Torah that He writes on the fleshly tablets of our hearts!

It is because of His Spirit being poured out and writing His Covenant on our hearts, that He now no longer overlooks ignorance as an excuse!

People who are ignorant and hardened become callous.

The Greek word that is used here for 'callous' is ἀπαλγέω *apalgeō* – Strong's G524 which means, ***'to cease to feel pain, become callous, to be past feeling, to grow or become insensible, apathetic'***.

The English definition of the word 'callous', according to the Merriam Webster's collegiate dictionary, is as follows:

'Hardened, thickened, feeling no emotion, show no sympathy for others'.

And the English definition for 'apathetic' is:

'Having or showing no feeling and have no interest or concern'.

Why I am mentioning this, is to highlight that the Greek word that is used here, in Sha'ul's letter, is clearly being used metaphorically, to mean, ***'be insensible to honour or shame'***. In other words:

'They could not care less'

This is the exact state of so many people in the world today – they just could not care less!!!

We are to care and be concerned for one another, as we are told in:

Ib'rim/Hebrews 10:23-27 "Let us hold fast the confession of our expectation without yielding, for He who promised is trustworthy. 24 And let us be concerned for one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging, and so much more as you see the Day coming near. 26 For if we sin purposely after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a slaughter offering for sins, 27 but some fearsome anticipation of judgment, and a fierce fire which is about to consume the opponents."

Having a 'couldn't care less' attitude can get oneself, as well as others, killed!

When one does not care, it becomes understandable how they can be given over to indecency, in order to work all uncleanness with greediness!

One who could not care less about others, is only interested in themselves and will feel nothing, when seeing others hurt or destroyed!

The Greek word that is translated as 'indecency' is the word ἀσέλγεια *aselgeia* – Strong's G766 which means, ***'licentiousness, sensuality'***.

Licentiousness means, ***'lacking legal or moral restraint, disregard sexual restraint, disregard for strict rules of correctness'***.

Sensuality means, ***'gratification of the senses or indulgences of the appetite, devoted to or preoccupied with the senses or appetites, deficient in moral, spiritual, or intellectual interests'***.

Have you, at times, found yourself deficient in the intellectual interest of spiritual matters?

That is to say: that if you have found a deficiency for the need to be intellectually engaged in Scripture and the study and meditation thereof, then you may be in danger of having been given over to sensuality!

After describing how callous, cold and careless the nations are, Sha'ul reminds us that we have not been taught to be like this and this is not how we learned Messiah, who is compassionate, trustworthy and lovingly-committed!

Do you find that there are times that you find yourself lacking proper restraint and end up feeling like you could not care less what happens to you or to others?

If so, then it may be a sure sign that the old man has not been properly 'put off'!

Sha'ul makes it clear to us, that in order to walk as Messiah walked, we must put off the former behaviour that corrupted by deceit!

The Greek word that is translated as 'put off' comes from the verb ἀποτίθημι **apotithēmi** – Strong's G659 which means, '*lay aside, put off, lay down, cast off*'.

In Ya'aqob/James, this word ἀποτίθημι **apotithēmi** – Strong's G659 is translated as 'put away':

Ya'aqob/James 1:21-22 "Therefore put away all filthiness and overflow of evil, and receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your lives. 22 And become doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

What is abundantly clear, in Scripture, is that in order to be proper hearers and doers of the Word, and be on guard against deception, we have to first put off the former corruption of the sinful flesh, so that we can receive the implanted Word and allow it to bring forth the proper fruit of set-apartness!

The proper putting off and putting on, is a clear instruction that we see being given to us in Scripture, and in order to properly put on the armour of light, we must put off all darkness:

Romiyim/Romans 12:11-13 "The night is far advanced, the day has come near. So let us put off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk becomingly, as in the day, not in wild parties and drunkenness, not in living together and indecencies, not in fighting and envy, 14 but put on the Master יהושע Messiah, and make no provision for the lusts of the flesh."

Sha'ul was not simply content to explain a Truth and leave it, as he always applied it to practical living and here, in this letter to the believers in Rome, he makes mention of the very things that we are to put off and why!

We are to put off all lying and speak truth to one another, for we are all members of each other.

This is a very important thing that he is teachings us here, for lying will only corrupt the garments of The Bride and darken out the light that we are to shine!

I was reminded of how Hānanyah and Shappirah lied about how much they sold a possession for, in **Ma'asei/Acts 5**, and this got them killed!

The clear warning that is given to us, as believers today, is that we are not to lie and we can learn a great deal from the events around Hānanyah and Shappirah, as there are believers today who are not speaking the truth about their possessions, so to speak, as they are robbing Elohim, when they do not faithfully give, as Scripture teaches, but rather hold back from doing what is right, possibly due to the fact that the influence of a wicked world has caused them to not throw off the old ways of corruption and deceit and think that they can get away with compromised ways!

Sha'ul makes it clear: the one who stole must steal no more, and if anyone has been robbing Elohim, in their tithes and offerings, then they should do so no more, by putting off the falsehood and deception that reasons away required obedience! Stealing was something that was done by almost everyone in Ephesus, in Sha'ul's day, and it was not only the poor who stole but also the rich, who oppressed others, and Sha'ul warns against any form of stealing, as the clear call for a true set-apart one is to be honest and hardworking, so that he can have something to share with those in need, which teaches us the lesson that he is giving us here, on how we are to be concerned for one another and be on guard against selfishness and a calloused heart.

He then expresses how important it is to not let any corrupt word come out of our mouths, but only that which is used to build up the body.

In a wicked world that promotes selfishness, slander and gossip is clearly evident among those who harden their hearts and walk in the futility of a lawless mind!

The words we speak will reveal the state of our hearts, whether they have been hardened by deceit or whether they have been renewed by The Spirit!

The Greek word that is translated as 'corrupt' in **verse 29** is σαπρός *sapros* – Strong's **G4550** which means, '**rotten, worthless, bad, unwholesome**', and is used to describe a 'rotten' tree, in:

Mattithyahu/Matthew 7:17-19 "So every good tree yields good fruit, but a rotten tree yields wicked fruit. 18 "A good tree is unable to yield wicked fruit, and a rotten tree to yield good fruit. 19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Luqas/Luke 6:44-45 "For each tree is known by its own fruit. For they do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. 45 "The good man brings forth what is good out of the good treasure of his heart, and the wicked man brings forth what is wicked out of the wicked treasure of his heart. For out of the overflow of the heart his mouth speaks."

Our words reveal a lot and will clearly reveal if the old man has been put off or not! When our speech is not corrupt, then all bitterness, wrath, displeasure and uproar and slander will be put away!

Have you found yourself saying things that you should not have said, especially when in anger or despair?

Sha'ul teaches us not to sin when we are wroth!

How often have you allowed displeasure to cause you to have speech that is corrupt and you end up slandering another?

This can be a sign that the old grave clothes are still on or, are in the closet, so to speak, and are conveniently put on when one is driven by the deceit of the flesh!

Ya'aqob warns us about how dangerous the tongue can be, and how 'out of the same mouth can proceed blessings and cursings and this should not be so'!

We are to guard our lips and when we put off the corruption of the flesh and walk according to the Spirit, our speech will be wholesome and true, as our speech is to be seasoned with salt, which is a clear picture of covenant obedience, as we are reminded that salt was to be brought with all offerings and salt represents that which heals and is perpetual!

Sha'ul makes it clear, that while we were once like the nations, that is not who we now are in Messiah!

Tas'loniqim Aleph/1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 "For this is the desire of Elohim: your set-apartness! – that you should abstain from whoring, 4 that each one of you should know how to possess his own vessel in set-apartness and respect, 5 not in passion of lust, like the nations who do not know Elohim, 6 not to overstep and take advantage of his brother in this matter, because the Master is the revenger of all such, as we indeed said to you before and earnestly warned. 7 For Elohim did not call us to uncleanness, but in set-apartness."

The Greek word translated as 'desire' is θέλημα thelēma – Strong's G2307 which means, '*will, desire, pleasure*' which comes from θέλω thelō – Strong's G2309 which means, '*to will, have in mind, intend*'

As the Bride of Messiah, we are to keep ourselves 'pure and undefiled' and not be found whoring after the flesh.

We are to be found only to be doing the desire of Elohim:

Marqos/Mark 3:35 "For whoever does the desire of Elohim is My brother and My sister and mother."

Tehillah/Psalm 40:8 "I have delighted to do Your pleasure, O my Elohim, and Your Torah is within my heart."

Doing what Elohim desires can only be a delight when we recognise and have His Torah within our heart, so that we do it, and it takes diligence and effort and an ability to be a people who will not stop excelling more and more to grow in the knowledge of the Torah that equips us to do the desire of Elohim.

Mishlê/Proverbs 19:2 "Also, desire without knowledge is not good; and he who hurries with his feet sins."

This is very clear: desire without knowledge is not good, and sadly we see so many people who think they have the desire, yet they lack the knowledge and find themselves very quickly on the wrong side of the plumb line of the Torah!

Romiyim/Romans 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you prove what is that good and well-pleasing and perfect desire of Elohim.”

What is made abundantly clear to us, is that we have been warned about walking in the way of the nations and must take heed, with urgency, the need to throw off the old ways and all that entangles, in order for us to run with perseverance the race that has been set before us!

As we consider the words of Sha’ul and the words of our Master, to the assembly in Ephesos, we would do well to make sure that all the junk of the world that must be put off and cast away, be done so without fail, in order that we put on the Master and His armour of Light, as we guard to walk in His Torah and stand firm in His Word, always ready to give an answer for the hope we have!

When looking intently into the mirror of the Word what do you see?

Do you still see some old rags and clothes that should have been buried?

Do you still have some grave clothes – that is: clothes that carry no life of the Master but only darkness?

Perhaps it is time to do a wardrobe check, so to speak, and make sure that the clothes of darkness and ignorance and indecency are thrown out, in order that the implanted Word can bring about the proper fruit of obedience and be properly dressed in righteousness, guarding our dress code of perfect set-apartness!

How are you dressed?

How is your walk?

Let me remind you again of the verse that I quoted earlier, from:

Yoḥanan Aleph/1 John 2:6 “The one who says he stays in Him ought himself also to walk, even as He walked.”

The Greek word that is translated as ‘ought’, comes from the root word ὀφείλω *opheilō* – Strong’s G3784 which means, ‘*to owe, be indebted, must*’ and highlights an obligatory action that is required and metaphorically, is carries the idea of being bound or obligated to perform a duty, with the meaning, ‘*I ought, must*’.

The Greek word that is translated as ‘stays’, comes from the root word μένω *menō* – Strong’s G3306 which means, ‘*to stay, abide, remain, stand*’ and is the word that is used in Yoḥanan/John 15, where we are told to ‘*stay in, remain in*’ Messiah!

Why I am highlighting this verse again, along with these root words, is to make it abundantly clear that the one who says that he stays in Messiah, has an obligation to walk as Messiah walked, walking in complete obedience to The Torah of Elohim, guarding to do all that He has commanded us, for that is righteousness for us!

Let us continue to walk in The Truth, with the staff of our Master being firmly gripped in our hand and not be like the nations who are let loose to lawlessness!

I will close with the words of Kěpha, as we guard to take heed to this clear command:

YOU SHOULD NO LONGER WALK AS THE NATIONS WALK!

Kěpha Aleph/1 Peter 4:1-5 “Therefore, since Messiah suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² so that he no longer lives the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but according to the desire of Elohim. ³ For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the desire of the gentiles, having walked in indecencies, lusts, drunkenness, orgies, wild parties, and abominable idolatries, ⁴ in which they are surprised that you do not run with them in the same flood of loose behaviour, blaspheming, ⁵ who shall give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”

יהוה bless you and guard you; יהוה make His face shine upon you and show favour to you; יהוה lift up His face to and give you shalom!