

Handout 10

§ 2 • Exhortation to Righteous Conduct

§ 2.1 • Exhortation to Leave Former Life of Ignorant Unrighteousness Behind

PART 11

21 So then, I will state and affirm this: as individuals who belong to the Lord, you are no longer to walk as the Gentiles walk, in the unfruitfulness of their mind. ²Being darkened in their understanding—alienated from the Life offered by God because of the ignorance that is in them on account of the *obdurate* hardness of their heart—these Gentiles, being beyond any sense of shame, have given themselves over to unrestrained sexual desire such that, in their *pleonexia*,⁷ they engage in every sort of sexually impure practice. ³But, with regard to following the Messiah, this is not what you learned—if, in fact, you have given heed to him and have been taught by him.

4:17–21a

22 Such is the truth with regard to Jesus: that, with reference to your former way of life, you take off the old person—who, in the nature of deceitful desires, was proceeding to destruction—and be made new in the spirit of your mind, and clothe yourself with the new person, the one who, in accord with the purposes of God, is created for righteousness and a true devotion to God. ²Therefore, laying aside the lie, affirm the truth—each one of you with his neighbor—for we are members of one another.

4:21b–25

§ 2.2 • Exhortation To Avoid Various Specific Sins That Characterized One's Former Life of Unrighteousness

PART 12

23 Be angered, but do not sin. ²The sun is not to go down on your indignation. ³Do not give place to the *Diabolos*.

4:26–27

24 The one who steals is to steal no longer. ²Rather, he is to labor, producing, with his own hands, some good thing so that he has something to share with one who has a need.

4:28

25 No worthless counsel is to come out of your mouth. ²Rather, only if something is good for building up that is needed, so that it gives grace to those who hear. ³Do not bring grief to the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of your liberation.

4:29–30

⁷*Pleonexia*—typically translated “greed”—describes a state wherein one has no respect for any moral boundaries in the way that he seeks to gratify his desires. Arguably, “in their *pleonexia*” could be translated “with a complete disregard for moral boundaries in their self-absorbed pursuit of self-gratification.”