

HBC Pulpit Curriculum  
**Christ's Victory: How To Make the End of the Story Your Daily Reality**  
by Pastor Kurt Gebhards  
**Ephesians 4:24**

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### Living in the Riches of Christ's Refreshment

#### Introduction

**Open by sharing your best stories of taking a shortcut that didn't pan out.** Kurt reminded us of the actions of marathoner Rosie Ruiz who took a shortcut in the Boston Marathon only to be disqualified. Interact briefly about the failed shortcuts we take in the victory offered in Christ and then read again Eph. 4:20-24. Review the three steps, Repent, Renew, Refresh.

#### 1. Adorn yourself in the New Man

Pastor Kurt began by explaining the words "new man". He emphasized that new means "new in kind" and that self means "humanity". Interact together asking, "In what ways do we reflect that we fall back into our old ways in our day to day existence?" What is our responsibility in being new? Put it on is a command.

There is a MORALE component to this found in Gal. 3:27 related to Christ. There is a MORAL component to the new man where we actively change Col. 3:12-13. Talk about the difference of the two. Why is embracing our part so crucial?

Pastor Kurt called us to recall our dress in our teen years. What did you wear and what would it look like today? In a similar manner and in light of 2 Cor. 5:17 what do we need to do? "You have a new garment, put it on!"

#### 2. Appropriate your Re-Creation

Look together at the word "created" in our study. Read Gen. 1:1-2 and explain the significance of "creation out of nothing" found in both places. What does that say about our new life that we possess? Read 2 Pet. 1:3,4 and 2 Cor. 4:7 to further identify the change God seeks. What will that change look like? In light of this re-creation by God how can you better explain Jn. 3:3 to someone who asks about being "born again"?

For the non-believer sin is still on the throne of their life no matter how good they may be. For us, Pastor Kurt made a careful distinction between positional newness pictured in 2 Cor. 5:21 and practical newness pictured in Rom. 8:21-23. These are important dynamics of the new man. What is the difference? J.I. Packer explained practical newness as "sin is dethroned but not destroyed". What is the #1 reason we do not enjoy this new life? [Hint: Inactivity.] Share a season of your spiritual life where this was your experience.

#### 3. Admit your need for the Alien

Our verse identifies, righteousness, holiness and truth are ours but not on our own merit. What does that mean? "Acknowledging that all you need comes from the outside". Read Isa 55:1-2 and explain the storehouse of God. Kurt said "the tag on the goods of God's storehouse has grace on one side and faith on the other". Discuss that.

#### 4. Five Steps toward Refreshment in Christ – Here are some great resources to guide your accountability.

**1] Own your moral corruption** – Here we accept the fact that our heart is corrupting us.

**2] Acknowledge your spiritual bankruptcy** – No task on our part is good enough, we need a heart of faith.

**3] Identify His sufficiency** – He alone is adequate He wants to give grace to sinners.

**4] Avail yourself the storehouse of God** – God isn't stingy, He wants you to have it all Rom. 5:5.

**5] Relish His victory** – We don't have to wait to enjoy it now.

As you finish this study and as we conclude this three part series, read Eph. 4:25 through 5:1 and as a groups identify the principles that operate in our new man if we repent, renew and refresh.

Close with these as your personal prayer to become new. Additionally, pray for our new ministry year, the start of Lifegroups in September and pray regarding our next pastors, specifically for Worship and Family ministry.