

SERMON OUTLINE

3745 Market St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Sunday Morning 12/28/08

2009 Theme: "How To..."

I. Topic to be Discussed

- A. Theme for 2009: "How To..." - **James 2:24** - True faith includes action - let's make this year twelve months of dedication to God that shows by how we live.
- B. Where Does It Start? **Ephesians 4:20-21** - Begins with YOU

II. Being Disciplined in 2009

- A. Our Motivation for Action - **Ephesians 4:26-27,30**
 - 1. Because I Hate My Life When I'm Not Serving God
 - 2. Because Every Day I Wait Is a Greater Opportunity for Satan
 - 3. Because God Has Given So Much for Me
- B. Steps for Godly Action: **Ephesians 4:22-24**
 - 1. **Run** - from what is wrong
 - a. Description of the old life: **Eph 4:22** - corruption, deceit
 - b. Disciplines:
 - (1) Take every thought captive - don't dwell on what is evil (**2 Corinth 10:5; Phil 4:8**).
 - (2) Decide - get up and leave every sinful situation, like Joseph (**1 Thess 5:21-22**). - Clean out of my life what is tempting
 - 2. **Pray** - for a different perspective
 - a. Renew our minds: **Eph 4:23** - sin is a HEART problem
 - b. Disciplines:
 - (1) Prayer - before the temptation (keep me strong) - during the temptation (change my focus) - after the temptation (keep me on right path) (**1 Thes 5:17**)
 - (2) Bible Study - NOT merely boundaries but - reveals God - who He is, what He's done for me (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)
 - 3. **Serve** - to change your focus
 - a. Replacing good for bad - **Eph 4:24** - this is my picture
 - b. Disciplines:
 - (1) Reaching Out to the Needy - Set aside time to help others, look for and make opportunities (**Gal 2:10**)
 - (2) Eliminate "Busy-ness" - simplify life to make time for helping OR be ready to rearrange to help (**Eph 6:9**)