

FROM THE PULPIT

Recipe for life found in Bible

By Brad Bryant
FOR THE PANTAGRAPH

Scriptures are full of useful jewels. Here's a "recipe for life," from Ephesians:

► 4:22 ...regard(ing) your former way of life, ...put off your old self, which is... corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 (and) be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 ...put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness... 32 Be kind and compassionate ...

God loves you unconditionaly, no matter where you've been, or what you've done. God invites each of us to "change"... and grow into his presence. We call this repentance and for-

giveness. God offers you forgiveness: the chance to "be made new," when you're ready to receive it!

► 25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor...

Today's society encourages us to lie and twist the truth to get ahead, or look good to others. God calls you away from this destructive habit! Choose truth, and show respect for every person!

► 26 In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

Responding in anger damages relationships, and can allow the adversary into your life... creating more problems!

► 28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

We've learned since childhood that stealing is bad. God is calling us to grow beyond "selfish" stealing, and to honestly build up a surplus through his blessings to help meet others' needs!

► 29 Do not let... unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen...

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage..., anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Your words often define who you become. Negative words return negative results! Speak positives, and build up people. Choose to be around uplifting people, who can help your spiritual journey!

Remember: God loves you, and wants you to find and hear Him. God is calling each of us to change into his image. Let God's Spirit guide your next steps toward Jesus!

Find a church family that helps you meet the "living, loving God," who knows you personally and wants to be invited into your daily life!

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