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It's Complicated

OUR MATURING UNITY

1 Group

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OUR MATURING UNITY

2 Message Timer Start: 35 Mins

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Hear O Israel!
The Lord is our God - the Lord alone.
Love the Lord your God -
with all your heart, with all your soul
and with all your might (*Deut. 6:4-5*)!
And love your neighbor as yourself (*Lev. 19:18, Matt. 22:39*). Amen.

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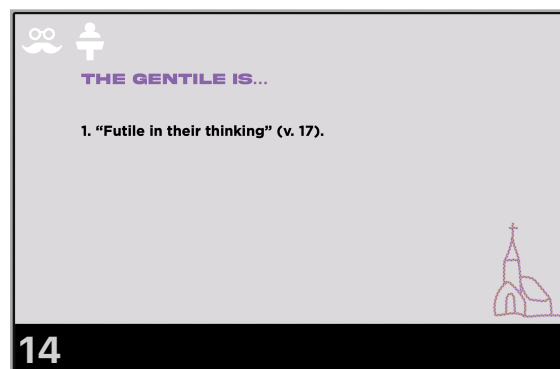
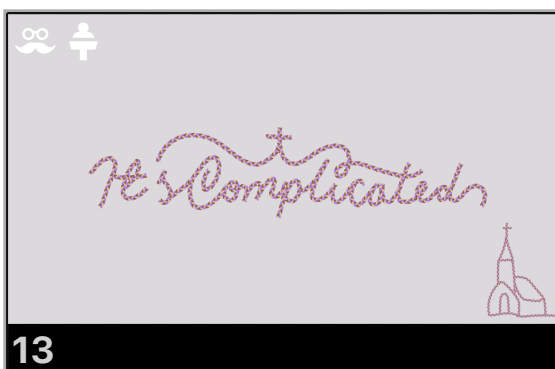
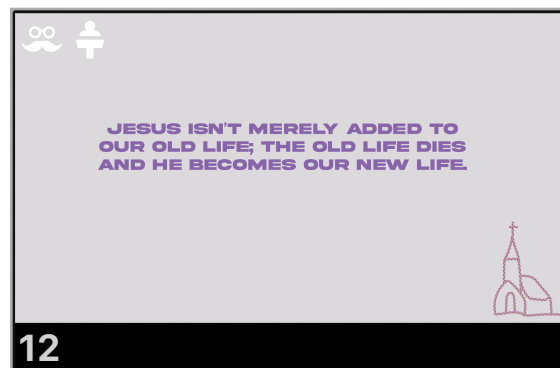
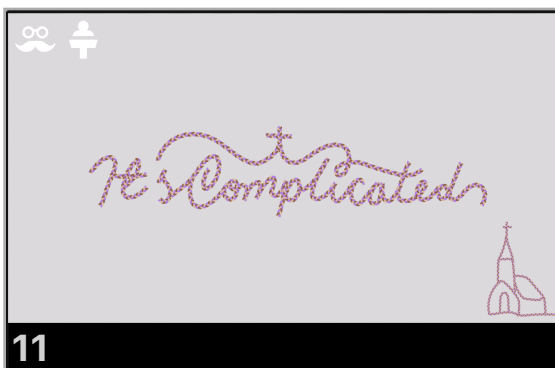
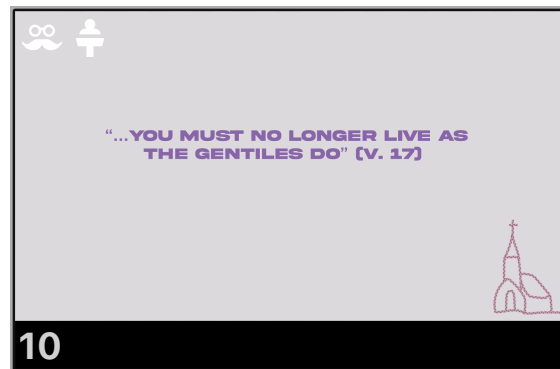
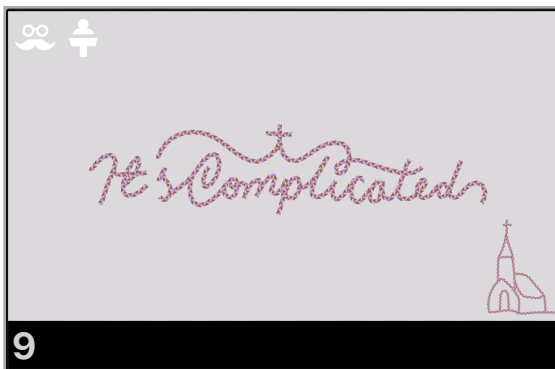
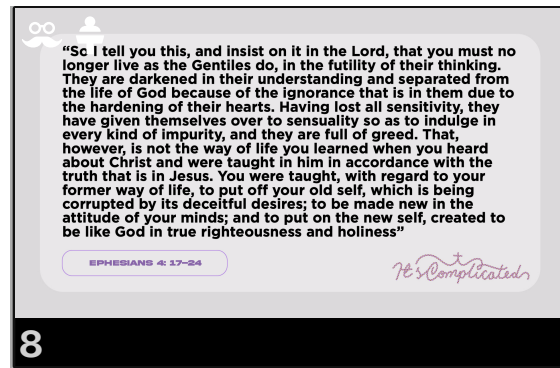
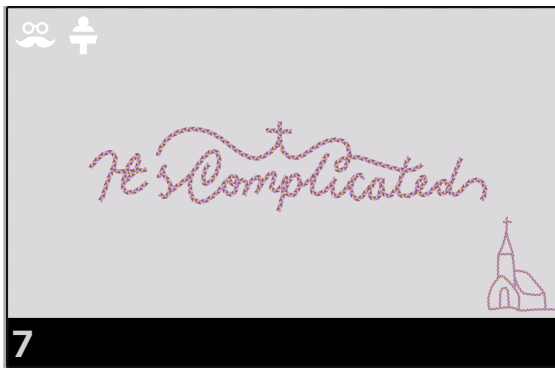
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"A TEXT WITHOUT A CONTEXT IS A
PRETEXT FOR TROUBLE."

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15




"FUTILE"

ματαιότης
 mataiotēs
 "devoid of truth, perverse, and depraved"



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17



THE GENTILE IS...

1. "Futile in their thinking" (v. 17).
 2. "...darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God" (v. 18).
 -"...because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts" (v. 18).



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"Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed"

EPHESIANS 4: 19

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"Sensuality and [spirituality] are closely related within us. This close tie can be seen in the ancient religions which were extremely sexual in their orientation. There is an obvious spiritual hunger within humankind, but since it is so closely related to our sexual drive, the two desires become confused. By observation alone, it appears that the more godless a society becomes, the more sexually active and perverse the people grow. This is an act of compensation, attempting to pacify the inner spiritual needs with a sexual substitute. Since sexuality fails to meet the spiritual need, we are never satisfied, driving our desires to a more aggressive immorality" (Holmes).



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"That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus"

EPHESIANS 4: 20

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"The Christian life...is a vital participation by faith and commitment to the very life of Christ. It is a literal entering into the life of Christ and the experiencing of the transforming power of His resurrection (Rom. 1:14-16; 8:11; 2 Cor. 5:17). The Christian life is more than an acceptance of the teachings of Christ or an attempted evaluation of His example. It is an acceptance by faith of His person into our lives...To [follow Jesus] is not simply to learn about Christ, but to learn Christ, to have heard him, to be taught in Him, even as the truth is in Jesus. Anything less than such a personal encounter with the living person of the Son of God will leave the soul devoid of the divine power to reject the old way of life and live the new life" (Carter).



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"So, if you want to know the Lord Jesus Christ, you must live with him. First he must himself speak to you, and afterwards you must abide in him. He must be the choice Companion of your morning hours, he must be with you throughout the day, and with him you must also close the night; and as often as you may wake during the night, you must say, 'When I awake, I am still with thee'" (Spurgeon).



28



"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness"

EPHESIANS 4: 22-24

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