INTRODUCTION: Do you know the story of Sisyphus? In Greek mythology, he was the cunning king of Corinth, who, because he offended Zeus, the chief god, was punished in Hades by being forced to roll an enormous boulder to the top of a steep hill. Every time the boulder neared the top, it would roll back down, and Sisyphus would have to start all over.

Evidently the gods thought there is no more dreadful punishment than futile and hopeless labor --- the unspeakable penalty in which the whole being is exerted toward accomplishing nothing. A difficult and futile task came to be called a "labor of Sisyphus." Life is Bugh - o Don you die

And as far as Peter is concerned those who live without Christ are engaged in a "labor of Sisyphus." He describes this life in verse 18 as "your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers." They were in bondage to a way of life that was vain, empty. It lacked reverence for the true God, and, so It lacked a proper regard for real values. It produced no worthwhile effort. (3) It is a life without meaning. It is a futile life, in that it does not measure up to that for which human life was created. An ineffectual attempt. Their course of life answered none of the proper

The state of the s It is a futile, fumbling, groping life which makes no effective

- 2. This kind of living is inherited, determined for us by those before us. We receive it from others who have lived it and passed on to us. "RECEIVED BY TRADITION FROM YOUR FATHERS." "INHERITED FROM YOUR FATHERS."
- They quite naturally accepted the culture and values of their times. This futile manner of life was passed down to the son from the father by the channels of heridity, teaching, example and environments. It was the tradition they inheritedi THEIR FATHERS AND FORMER GENERATIONS HAD NOTHING BETTER TO PASS ON TO THEIR DESCENDENTS. "THE POWER OF A DEAD HAND."
- (2) It is pictured as a form of slavery -- "Redeemed." Our "Egypt" may be cultural, not physical.
- There is nothing connected with this world that can change this. We can't buy our way out of it ("silver and gold"). Material things will not give meaning and purpose to life. We can't buy our way out of it, fame our way, drink our way, etc.

(1) There is nothing we can do to change our life, break free from it. TO THE CONTRARY, the more we try to fight it, the more like it we become. Jung said, "You always become the thing you fight most."

Sarl

Think: What was it about your parents, you hated the most? Have you realized how much like them you have become? This is not an occasional aberration. It is a fixed rule of human behaviour, from intrapsychic conflict to international relations.

ILL- Alcholics Anonymous -- resisting evil seldom works. As long as we hate something, we only draw ourselves to it. "Whoever fights monsters," warned Nietzche, "should see to iy that in the process he does not become a monster."

(2) Conquerors have all through history been conquered by those they conquer.

"The iron hand crushed the Tyrant's head And became a Tyrant in his stead." William Blake

(3) Rome subjugated the Jews, prompting the Roman philosopher Seneca to complain that Jewish customs had begun to penetrate Roman life: "The conuered have given laws to the conquerors."

Rutilius Namatianus: "Would to the gods Judea had never been conquered!"

4. ONLY CHRIST CAN LIBERATE US FROM THE PRISON OF A MEANINGLESS LIFE.