

Ron Baum • February 16-17, 2019
DIDN'T SEE IT COMING: "Cynicism"

Overcoming the greatest challenges that no one **EXPECTS** and yet everyone **EXPERIENCES**.

The first challenge: **CYNICISM**

How does CYNICISM occur?

1. When Life HAPPENS.

Ecclesiastes 1 (NLT) 2 "Everything is meaningless," says the Teacher, "completely meaningless!" 3 What do people get for all their hard work under the sun? 4 Generations come and generations go, but the earth never changes. 5 The sun rises and the sun sets, then hurries around to rise again. 6 The wind blows south, and then turns north. Around and around it goes, blowing in circles. 7 Rivers run into the sea, but the sea is never full. Then the water returns again to the rivers and flows out again to the sea. 8 Everything is wearisome beyond description. No matter how much we see, we are never satisfied. No matter how much we hear, we are not content. 9 History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new. 10 Sometimes people say, "Here is something new!" But actually it is old; nothing is ever truly new. 11 We don't remember what happened in the past, and in future generations, no one will remember what we are doing now. 18 The greater my wisdom, the greater my grief. To increase knowledge only increases sorrow.

- The greater your **WISDOM** the greater your **GRIEF!**
- Cynicism starts not because you **DON'T** care, but because you **DO** care.

2. When the Past Begins to **RULE** the Future.

- The hurt of your past can **PRONOUNCE** a death sentence on your future.
- The hurt of your past can **PRODUCE** guardedness.
- The hurt of your past can **PARALYZE** you from seeing the current potential.

What is the IMPACT?

1. **ISOLATION** occurs.

- You withdraw from your **INNER CIRCLE**.
- You withdraw from **COMMUNITY**.
- You withdraw from **GOD**.

2. An **INFECTION** spreads.

- Impacting **ME**.
- Impacting those around **ME**.
- Impacting God & **ME**.

When your heart is guarded it directly impacts your **HOPE**, **TRUST** and **BELIEF** systems.

When you stop hoping, trusting and believing, remember that it is a **CHOICE**.

What Do I Do to **REGAIN** Optimism?

1. **REMEMBER** cynicism is a choice.

2. **RECOGNIZE** the POWER of the RESURRECTION.

Ephesians 1:15-20 (NLT) 15 Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, 16 I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, 17 asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. 18 I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. 19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

3. **REACH:**

- Reach **IN** and find **JOY**.
- Reach **UP** and take care of your **SOUL**.
- Reach **OUT** and **INVEST** again.