

## The Christian's Walk

Eph 4:1-3; Matt. 4:19

### ***Introduction:***

- A. The last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, have seen amazing strides in transportation with the development of trains, automobiles, and airplanes. Before the invention of these modes of transportation, preferred method for long distance travel was by animal or animal drawn vehicle and by ship, and the usual method for shorter distance travel was simply by walking. So far as we know, Jesus walked most everywhere He went. Read TEXT.
  - B. The literal meaning of the word "walk" is "to go about on foot," as in this text. However, in the New Testament it's often used figuratively to mean, "the whole round of activities of the individual's life." In other words, when the Bible talks about the way we walk, it is talking about the way that we live.
  - C. What makes this subject so important is that how we walk in this life will ultimately determine our eternal destiny. For that very reason, it is impossible to be too concerned about it.
  - D. What does God's word have to say about "the Christian's walk?"
- I. ***Is To Be In Newness Of Life*** - Rom. 6:3-4
- A. Paul talks about the effects of the consummating act of obedience by which one is saved and becomes a Christian
  - B. What does this mean?
    1. Means when we're buried with Christ in baptism, all past sins have been remitted or washed away - Acts 2:38; 22:16
    2. Means that one is now "in Christ," having a special spiritual relationship with God through Christ - 1 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 3:26-27
    3. Means he's been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son, which is His church, having been redeemed - Col. 1:13-14
      - a. Since it's our sins that cause us to be lost before God and will ultimately lead to eternal punishment

- b. What a blessing it is to be in Christ where we can walk in newness of life

## II. *Is To Be By Faith* - 2 Cor. 5.6-7

- A. Speaking of that blessed state which exists with Christ after this newness of life begins
- B. What does this mean?
  - 1. To understand what it means to walk by faith, we must understand a little more about faith
    - a. The Biblical concept of faith is a strong belief in God that leads one to trust Him completely
    - b. Where does such a faith come from?
      - 1) Not human opinion, worldly wisdom, man-made doctrines, wishful thinking, or other subjective sources
      - 2) The objective word of God - Rom. 10:17
  - 2. To walk by faith, then, demands that we take God at His word and live according to His standard rather than according to the desires of self - Gal. 2:20
  - 3. The Bible is full of examples which show us from a practical standpoint what it means to live by faith-- consider just one - Heb. 11:8.
    - a. Abraham walked by faith because whenever God told Him to do something, Abraham believed God and obeyed His will
    - b. And that's what we must do to walk by faith.

## III. *Is To Be Worthy Of His Calling* - Eph. 4.1

- A. The kind of attitude that will characterize those who walk by faith
- B. What does this mean?
  - 1. The word "worthy" is defined as "having worth, value, or merit; deserving, meriting"
    - a. The idea is that our walk or life should have the same worth as or be commensurate with our calling; i.e., they should "match up"
    - b. What is our calling?
    - c. It's basically God's plan for our lives here and in eternity - Eph. 4:4; Phil. 3:14

2. To walk worthy of this calling
  - a. Is to live in such a way as to accept His call, strive to be in harmony with His will
  - b. And stand in an acceptable state before Him - Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:12
3. Sometimes people say that we can never really be worthy of the Lord, and there's a sense in which that's true
  - a. But the fact is that if we walk worthy of our calling, God will count us worthy and reward us accordingly - 2 Thess. 1:11
  - b. Since God is a God of purity and holiness, we won't walk after the flesh if we walk worthy of our calling

#### **IV. *Is To Be A Walk Of Love* - Eph. 5:1-2**

- A. This describes various characteristics of those who walk worthy of God's calling and tells us
  1. We are to measure our love by the way that Christ has loved us and given Himself for us - Rom. 5:8
  2. We see that the kind of love in which God wants us to walk isn't just a feeling but an action
  3. It involves doing something that's in the best interest of another - Gal. 5:6
- B. In other words, if we're truly walking by faith, then that faith will be working through love
  1. This is true whether it involves the love that we should show to our fellow men or the love that we should show to God - 1 Jn. 3:16-18, 5:3
  2. We're to imitate the same type of love which Christ showed, and He loved us enough to die on the cross for us
  3. We can't die on the cross as He did, but there are still many things that we can do and must do to walk in love

***Conclusion:***

- A. I think that we can all agree that Paul was undoubtedly a man who walked in newness of life, by faith, worthy of his calling, and in love. He wouldn't tell us to do anything that he didn't strive to do himself. What did he have to look forward to as he approached the end of his walk?
- B. Paul said the reward is "crown of righteousness" for "...all who have loved His appearing" (2 Tim. 4.6-8). If we walk the same kind of walk that Paul did and taught us to do, we can have the same hope that he did. But the 1st step is to follow His example and become a Christian. If you've not yet obeyed the gospel, consider (Acts 9:1-18).