

The Christian's Walk

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

Ephesians 4:1-3 - Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Matthew 4:19 - And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Introduction:

- A. The last half of the 19th century and early 20th century saw some amazing strides in transportation with the advent of trains, automobiles, and airplanes. Before the invention of these modes of transportation, the preferred method for long distance travel was by animal or animal drawn vehicle and by ship. 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 is often used figuratively to mean, "the whole round of activities of one's life." In other words, when the Bible talks about the way we walk, it is talking about the way we conduct our life.
- 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

Romans 6:3-4 - Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

- 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 are buried with Christ in baptism, all past sins have been remitted or washed away - Acts 2:38; 22:16

Acts 2:38 - Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16 - 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

2. Means that one is now "in Christ," having a special spiritual relationship with God through Christ - 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 3:26-27

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Galatians 3:26-27 - For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

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

Colossians 1:13-14 - For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- 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

2 Corinthians 5:6-7 - Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord-- 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight--

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

Romans 10:17 - So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

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

Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

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

Hebrews 11:8- By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

- 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

Ephesians 4:1 - Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

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 "matchup"
 - 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

Ephesians 4:4 - There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Philippians 3:14 - I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Colossians 1:10 - so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

1 Thessalonians 2:12 - so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

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

2 Thessalonians 1:11 - To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power,

- 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

Ephesians 5:1-2 - Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

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

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

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

Galatians 5:6 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

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

1 John 3:16-19 - We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him

1 John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

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).

Acts 9:1-18 - Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do." The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in

and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized;