

is one thing and how great a thing those only know who have been brought out of their weary wanderings and tossings to and fro, under the justification of his righteousness and thus rest in peace, perfect peace with God. Then having found this peace, we walk with God closely in the paths of daily life. When we started out on this course, our minds enlightened by spiritual light which enabled us to see Christ as our justification. We felt how wonderful this new life in all of its possibilities before us held out to us.

But later on we have found our first love was apt to get chilled and that the world and sin which we thought we had renounced forever were constantly coming up and asserting their claim and coming back into our hearts, and our communion was broken and we lost somehow that joy and comfort that we felt when we first saw the Lord. And thus, we cried out, "Oh, for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame, a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the lamb. Where is the blessedness I knew

INTRODUCTION

We know that Paul's Jewish background was something that enabled him to understand and it also enables us to understand why he frequently used the term walked. He had grown up under the influence of the stories of how the father's walked before God. He had known from youth that the people of God were to engage in a manner of (life unlike) that of their heathen neighbors, and he uses this term to describe the new life to walk worthily of God of the calling whereto an individual had been called into a new relationship with Christ Jesus.

I. [The only beginning place]

He begins by saying that the worthy walk begins from a (life changing experience). The moral demands of the Christian life are rooted in the Christian's experience and are the natural expression of it. Thus he recognizes and emphasizes for the record that we begin here in the worthy walk. I beseech

you therefore brethren," he says, and then follows his description of God's deliverance of the sinner from spiritual bondage.

We know that there are (many ideals) that are shared by other religions but at this point, we know that our religion, Christianity is different in that it begins with an experience and has a deep motivation. The righteousness of the Christian is in its highest expression as we (experience with Christ personally) and then go on to live because of our gratitude. Christian righteousness flows naturally from a life in which the sin principle has been broken and the governing disposition of the soul has been made holy; A new nature, a new relationship, and a new motivation.

The (doctrine of grace) has never been popular with what Paul calls the natural man or humanity in its unredeemed and unregenerated state. This doctrine attracts man at the center of his being, his pride, and self-sufficiency.

This is and ever must be, the great question of questions to an awakened and converted soul. To others, it may be enough just to get a glimpse of God now and then, but for the Christian, he reflects upon how to walk worthily of this calling. If we have indeed tasted of his grace, and understand something of his love to us, then we have a desire to walk worthily. We must be brought nearer. The cry of our hearts must be, "nearer my God to thee, nearer my God to thee."

II. [A Bad Sign]

It is a bad sign when we cease in our quest to walk worthily of our Lord. That is a condition of the soul indeed which is not only attainable but which is set before us in the scriptures as the only (proper condition) of the believing soul. When we have found him for whom our souls longed and we know that "In him we have been brought nigh," Ephesians 2:13, "That in him we have eternal life," 1 John 5:11, and that our sins have been covered by his blood. This

the very sin that brought about the man's ruin.

This was not an afterthought with God. Christ stood as a lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Why did God make man if he knew he would sin? Here is the answer. God knew more than that man would sin, he knew that through his marvelous grace manifested in the life and work of Christ, he would recreate man in his own image. God looked beyond tragedy to triumph. The depth of his riches, of his knowledge and of his wisdom moves us. God once walked with man in the cool of the day, the fellowship was broken by man's sin. Through the work of Christ, man is renewed in character. There can be no fellowship before renewal of character.

The purpose of God in redemption must not be regarded merely as rescue, evangelism therefore many have a tendency to overlook the one thing that is more important than living forever, being set to live forever. Life eternal flows out of the goodness of the soul that God restores. He takes the soul from the pits and from the burning and he cloths that soul with qualities that will endure death and

when first I saw the Lord. Where is the soul-reviving view of Jesus and his Word? What peaceful hours I watch in joy, how sweet their memories still, but they have left a aching void, the world can never fill."

God forbid the beauty of the words, the accuracy with which they depict a condition of soul with so man of us we're familiar with it in our Christian experience that some people think that it is a necessary and essential part. But this is a bad sign, it's a blunder to think that we are not capable and able of walking worthily at all times.

There are at least two opposite areas here, the one of assuming that we have reached or can reach a state of of such absolute perfection as that we should go on walking perfectly with God. Now the other is to assume that we must necessarily fall back after conversion like Israel in the wilderness instead of going onward in a steady progress with strength to strength, strength from strength in the direction which God would lead us. The one ~~is~~ ^{error} is as great as the other I believe. Therefore, must not

"Many people are in the Salvation train, but a great many of them are traveling in the sleeper."

fall into such era.

III. Meanings

It will be necessary for us to define more particularly what is meant by walking with God. The expression is a scriptural one. It is used of Enoch and Noah, Genesis 5: 24 and 6:9. It is used of the tribe of Levi in the days of its first consecration to God. "The law of truth was in his mouth and iniquity was not found in his lips. He walked with me in peace and equity and did turn many away from iniquity." Malachi 2:6

We also find the expression in the memorable passage of the prophet Micah when in answer to the question, "Wherewith shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before the high God?" The answer is given, "He hath showed thee old man what is good and what ^{both} the Lord require of thee but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God. Micah 6:8 It is evident that what is meant by the expression in all these passages is to lead a life of constant

communion with God, in which God is made an intimate associate and friend, in which we consult him upon everything, and in which all is given up to his direction and control.

None will deny that this is what we're called to in Christ, for this purpose, The son of God was manifested for this purpose. The holy spirit was sent for this purpose the holy scriptures have been given unto us and let me add, what would the church be if its members were thus habitually walking with God. (What would some of us be) if this were more the attitude and posture of our souls day by day, hour by hour and moment by moment.

Paul conceived of the entire Christian enterprise as a fresh thrust of divine life. The activity of God described in Chapters one through three has but one goal in view, the recreation of man in the moral image of God. The first creation was ruined by sin, the new creation in Christ is redeemed from the curse of sin, and enjoys through the power of God victory over

of comfort.

We need to take a new look at ourselves in character, ideals, motives, and face. When the timbers under the (bridge) are crumbling, the answer is not to put more men on the payroll to direct the traffic. We dear friends have enough bonfires and pep rallies. We need a better team on the field. We need a team with the old-time religion in the local church.

We are seeing that gadgets and gimmicks will not make up for (spiritual deficiencies). You may take the finest of (electric milkers) in the world and you will not get rich milk from a dry cow. You may install reistats, you might pipe in high-fi music, you might add all the contentment but you'll never step up the production.

The same thing is true with the Christian walk, the worthy walk. We might be busy with our programs, with our questions about orthodoxy, and we might stand on our bank accounts, but that will not change the flow of the current, because it continues onward

eternity. Thus, here is a challenge for the meaning of man to walk. This is the key, God has redeemed you, therefore, walk worthily of that redemption.

IV. Some practical difficulties

To the layman and to the clergyman alike, the pathway that we are to walk is (beset with hindrances.) It seems that it is impossible for us to continue steadfastly in it. The (layman) is oppressed with the cares of his family, of his business, a thousand things have to be attended to every day, which seem to have no connection with religion or with God's thirst. But in spite of every resolution and many prayers, his duties are many.

The world and the flesh constantly afflict him, and it does not afflict him less than others, in many cases more. He is tempted by being combered about by so many things and in the cares which oppress him. Let it never be said by us that such a life of communion is impossible however.

Now it does not imply that there is a necessity for you to exchange what is commonly called to come out and accept that which is spiritual. We should never forget that we were saved for the purpose of good works. Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye were called. Some who have entered the Christian camp in Paul's day were still wearing the (uniform of the enemy). Their behavior patterns while holding to the Christian faith with one hand they were betraying it with the other. This constituted a greater threat to the Christian enterprise in Paul's chains. It was difficult for him to speak of the victory that comes through Christ while they by their living of their lives were discrediting all that he said. How could the tides of Paganism be driven by an army that did not know and refuse to walk and discipline their lives in this difficult situation. (If I am correct in my analysis) this is what is breaking the hearts and ruining the health of many people today. They're overwhelmed by frustration and futility upon seeing Christians contradict in their

lives of the members of the church, some of the leaders that which is not worthy. There is a fraction within the membership who delight in unworthy walks. Strife and discord characterize our age and it is manifested. The condition is almost intolerable. Our people do not have the love and respect for one another and the confidence in one another that should be characterized in a Church of God. The religion of people often is not vital enough to transcend differing the differences of opinion. It is mature enough even to come to worship.

Why are so many churches failing to meet their budgets? Oh, we say the normal let down, or we blame it on other factors. But have the plans that have been projected exceeded the spiritual depth of the people? The foundation is not strong enough to support the super structure. The gap between budgets and receipts is not simply financial. People have money to give to God, for many of them Mammon is still God, and they say they cannot give, they mean that they cannot give and still have the creatures of

that will never give in, that will never give up.

(Churchill) reflected this when he said, "we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills, we shall never surrender."

The second meaning is patience with men. The spirit which has the power to take revenge but never does. (Lightfoot) comments "that it is the spirit that refuses to retaliate."

Today there is much to dissuade and discourage when we think about the multitude of calls, the pettiness of people, the inevitability of people, who are weary in long sufferings. We want to take (wings of a dove) and fly away. This quality would not let us fly away. It has lashed us to our post, it is enough, let the woodpeckers peck, they cannot harm the tree unless it is rotten at the heart. Watch the little (puppy) snap and bark at the heels of a larger dog who took it patiently, he could have ended it in a hurry if he had desired to do so.

in that direction.

V. Unmistakable manifestations

Now Paul here in the second verse of Ephesians the 4th chapter gives us something that is unmistakable in discovering as to whether or not our walk is a worthy one, As to whether or not we are pleasing in our lives under him. What are these qualities upon which Paul places such value?

First, lowliness or humility. This quality which Basil called the gem casket of our older virtues was not an honorable word among the (Greeks). To them this was a quality of a spineless cringing coward.

The adjective describes a plant that trails along the ground. Vine

(Christianity) picked up this word and made it the virtue from which all other flow. There are two things that help us in promoting humility.

(1) An acquaintance with ourselves. There is nothing more humiliating or terrifying than an honest analysis

of yourself. We constantly try to hide from others and from ourselves. We want to think well of ourselves. We want to consider ourselves as honest in every way. You would not refer to yourself as lying, as sinful, but we know what we actually are, and yet people strut out in the public.

Dr. Me. E. Dodd used to say that he had made no sacrifices as a Christian, that all he gave up to follow Christ were a flopp-eared mule, and a bull-tongued plow in a new ground field. What humility.

When we get to feeling right proud of ourselves, let us remember where we were before Jesus found us.

(2) An acquaintance with Christ. When we compare ourselves with others, we do not suffer greatly by the comparison. But when we measure ourselves by the character of Christ, the pride in self-righteousness melts away.

Luther said 1st step of a X'tian was Humility -

Second, meekness. Now this word was often in the teachings of Aristotle, the great Greek Philosopher. He thought of virtue as the means between extremes. On the one hand, there was the excess of some qualities. ~~And there was~~ ² On the other hand, there was deficiency. This word from meekness was used to show a proper balance between extreme. The meek man is the man who is not given to excessive anger yet he is capable of being angry at wrongs.

This word is used to describe horse that has been brought under the control of a master. The meek man still has fire, strength, and determination, but under the control of Christ. This man is not a doormat to be stepped upon, but a man who does not blow his top.

THIRD Long Suffering

Now the Greek scholars tell us that the word has two meanings. First it describes the spirit

have all power. It is not I but Christ and how easy it is to please God, to walk with him. How delightful it is.

The whole secret of a holy walk is here disclosed. First there is an inexhaustible fountain from which our help comes, his divine power.

Second, a supply which is equal to all our needs, all things that pertain unto life and Godliness.

Third the method by which the supply is reached, through the knowledge of him who has called us. This then is the great thing needed in order to attain a closer walk with God. We knew but very little of the Lord when we first accepted him and his pardon for our sins.

But God (may show you) that you have some cherished idol in your heart that needs to be given up. It is evident ~~that~~ as (Amos 3:3) "can two walk together except they be agreed." If sin is willingly entertained, God's company must be given up. He will not dwell in a heart defiled with adultrous associations. Entire

Instead he considered the yapping as a part of growing up. Do not let the yapping puppies lose your patience. You have more important things to do, than yap back. The quality enables you to bear up under insult, slander, and injury without resentment, bitterness or retaliation. This is a quality of God himself. If God had been impatient as we, he long since would have dashed this world to bits.

This walk is manifested in the next place by 4. (outward purity.) We know that the first two verbs speak of inward qualities, but Ephesians 4:17 he describes this walk in its outward expression. He contrasts it with the worry walk of the unbeliever. The indwelling Christ makes a difference in the way a man lives.

(Archaeologists) in digging admits ruins of cities existing at the time Paul wrote uncovered pictures and descriptions of a life that was so unbelievably ludicrous and corrupt that they covered them up less they

degrade the workmen. While this is shocking to the Christian's moral sense, it was so much a part of the everyday life of the Ephesians as to be regarded as commonplace and even right.

These people were so depraved that they were without a moral sense. Their sin was openly and there was no sense of shame or improprieties. That was indeed the chief end of life.

Some of Paul's converts were right out of this kind of life, and Paul urges them to cast off the old man, the old pattern of life, as you would cast off a defiled garment. Seemingly some wanted the salvation Christ offered without its moral implications.

To Paul it was impossible to have one without the other. The Christian walk is a walk of purity. The new life in the soul makes the old character drop off like last year's leaves, When the sap of spring time begins to rise.

VI. Mending the broken walk

Now if you have been interrupted and you desire a

closer walk with God, there are some things you can do to mend your ways.

First (go and tell God) what you want, and ask him to show you how it can be done. I say that because it is easy for us to read devotional books or study different things about spiritual life, but we need to go to God himself and say "Lord show me how I can walk more closely to thee." And when God has honestly been approached, and his guidance sought, it may be he will show you even that the method that you have been using for maintaining a holy walk is deficient or that you have some cherished idol, that you need to give up.

It could be that your (method is defective) but that it is just here that we fail, that we are not willing to be as fools but like to try our own hands upon this work and construct a way, that way is the way of faith from beginning to end. God provides every need for us. Did we give ourselves up to Christ as dead to sin alive unto God by his resurrection. We have not power, but in Christ we

VI. What if our walk has been unworthy.

1. Go Tell God - how failed - show how to have closer walk.

cherished idol -

Amos 3:3 - can two walk together if they be agreed.

Enoch - chased God.

2. Watchfulness "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise." Eph. 5:15

VII. Great Assistance

apart of perfection
not have young ladies asking is it right to smoke attend Balls & etc -

not have young men asking must give up this pleasure or that pleasure, trying to know how far in the world it is possible to go & yet be a Christian.

J.O. Williams - Nov. 1918 - Battle of the Argonne - lost many men - not time bury dead - people had some answers see sanctoria write - get some info - Manager would be sent to the headquarters of the Division.

one day - one of infantry units of our Division - sewing or chaplain - Corporal came through, saluted Colonel
"Been commanded find how men have fallen & not yet buried."
"I do not know sir - pointed to chaplain - "I can not tell - we cannot find our dead in the night time & we are comm - not suppose ourselves to death during the day in order to find & bury the dead."

"yes sir - but I'm comm find out" "one way go on field, & in effort. you will lose your life" "sir I will rather find out, or all will die in the effort" "Tracked & waded up to top hill & beyond - Twilight - we started over hill - found his body - There was a boy would rather die than be buried." "This was a boy would rather die than be buried."

"Be thou faithful unto death & I will give
Thee a crown of life" Rev. 2:10

sleep of death. Paul's faithfulness lead eventually to his death.

VII. Great Assistance

Now in bringing to some final conclusions on the worthy walk, the whole object of our teachings we can perhaps gather up and it is for this we come to exhort and comfort and charge everyone of you as he said in verse 11, 2 Thess. Chapter 2, "We believe that there is something far better to be had even here upon this earth, than most people think of though they may be God's children." There is nothing less than the ideal of reaching the standards set by Christ.

How far has this been fulfilled in your life? Of course, perfectly it cannot be until we stand before him in glory. In 1 Corinthians 1:9 it is said, "We are called into his fellowship even now upon the earth." In his sufferings and in his joy," but men kick against this teaching, they do not like

surrender to him, the presence of our whole being to him to be searched by his all searching eyes, and to walk with God we must please him. Enoch walked with God, it is thus described in Hebrews 11 that he pleased God. Pleasing God sprang as it always must out of perfect trust in him. It was a saying yes properly and cheerfully to all that God said to him. If we are to be followers of Enoch we must do the same. I wonder if there is an Achan in our hearts coveting the accursed thing, the enemy to our peace must be slain.

Another things that will help us in our walk is (watchfulness). We must acknowledge with shame that there have been times when we have been dull and spiritually gloomy. God no doubt has been grieved and when you have gone to him and asked him the reason for this he has pointed out to you, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise," Ephesians 5:15. This is an admonition we often need to remember. The enemy is ever at hand watching for our halting, if he can draw us on

into the indulgence of trifling, or bad temper, or the old sins, he knows that the holy spirit will be grieved.

"Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain." Psalm 127:1 The fullest assurance of our interest in the Lord are awake.

We need to (accept) our share of the responsibility for the conditions that prevail in our church today. When ancient Israel went astray, God blamed them for neglect, and God raised up prophets that cried in the wilderness and to call them back to a revival of purity. We need to come back to a walk that will be pure, to a revival in our hearts. We have been so concerned many times with making reports and impressing records that we have forgotten to measure the success of our growth in the moral image of God. We are a little mixed up in our values.

We've lost our (vision of God). Our people perish for lack of vision. The path of Israel's prophets was to hold direct vision of God before the

people. Israel's God was holy, right and wrong for them were not rooted in just practical aspects, but in life.

We must be honest in showing the moral and ethical implications of our in accepting Jesus Christ. When we accept Christ, we are inviting a man not to just a hayride, but we're inviting him to daily crucifying himself for Christ.

We must recover the art of private and public worship. Our religions must be active and our worship must be genuine. It is not a matter, it does not matter a great deal about what has gone on so long, in the way of attendances and so on, but many hearts are hardened as Pharaoh's and are as treacherous as Judas.

Here my friends is a kind of walk that is costly; Paul's walk cost him trouble. He had to walk into prisons, he could have compromised and stayed out of jail. He was a man possessed of Christ. He could not keep his peace and lull men into the

to find how far below God's standard of holiness they are living. As it was in Ephesians 1:4, we are told that God called us to be holy now, and to be without blame and without spot.

In almost every epistle I find a command to be perfect but the people seem to be afraid of perfection. As afraid of it as they are of a deadly disease. How nearly we may reach it I cannot profess to say, but that almost all Christians have been living infinitely below their privilege.

The meaning of this word to make perfect in 1 Peter 5: 10 means the restoring or setting straight or mending a broken bone as anything else.

There are three Greek words for ~~the~~ perfection, First setting the man upright and adjusting him for labor which is the perfection spoken of in 2 Corinthians 13:9 - 11, 2 Timothy 3:17, without which you cannot walk worthy of God. I believe you may have it once if you're a Christian and without it you cannot get it.

Second, perfection of manhood which makes you fit for hard work and fighting, able to take your part in the good fight of faith, to press on to the mark, as in Philippians 3:15.

Third is that absolute perfection to which we are bidden to look forward, and which can only be attained to when we should be like him, for we shall see him as he is. But with this hope in him are we purifying ourselves as he is really pure, what a glorious thought for the believer that he is called to walk worthy of God and at faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

You have some (great assistance) you have Jesus Christ to help you for that purpose his son redeemed you. Did he die simply to take away your guilt; and then leave you to walk with a sorta shuffling gait through the world which should make the Godless ones mock at your claim of salvation? No, an upright walk was his purpose for his people. A walk that would bring glory to his name. 2 Corinthians 5:15,

If you yield yourselves to be conformed to him, For if you knew the purpose of God in giving his son, Jesus Christ and the purpose of the son in giving himself to die, we should not have young ladies asking as to whether or not they should attend balls and dances and so forth. We should not have young men asking us, Must I give up this pleasure or that pleasure, trying to know how far in the world it is possible to go and yet be a Christian. What do you know of the deliverance from the world? Look at Titus 2:14 and Ephesians 2:10. How far are you in walking worthily of God's son?

"The inner system that you have is the holy spirit that he sent down to take the place of the Savior, to give you joy and peace all through this walk." 2 Corinthians 3:17 Here is liberty for the believer now, liberty from sin, from wrath, from the power of sin, liberty to worship, liberty that gives you freedom in walking in a worthy manner.

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