

# "WALKING IN THE WAY OF THE LORD"

Isaiah 30:8-11, 18-22

## I. Let The Written Word Be Our Guide Book (vv. 8-11)

Expl: The people of Judah did not want the Word of God or any kind of Word from God. God confronts and guides His people with His Word. Moses spoke for God as the people were preparing to enter the promise land. "Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today" (Deut. 7:11). "Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the Lord promised on oath to your forefathers" (Deut. 8:1). "Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in His ways and revering Him" (Deut. 8:6).

### 1. We are blessed to have the Bible.

Ills: The Old and New Testaments. 66 books filled with the truth of God and straight from His mouth. 6,000 promises for every believer. In God's Word we have directions for every day, comfort for every sorrow and a solution for every problem. The Bible is not the book of the month or year but the book for all eternity. *THE BIBLE CONTAINS*

### 2. We are benefited by studying the Bible.

Ills: We can know what sin is. We can know how to be in fellowship with God. We can know about eternity. We can practice Psalm 119:11, 105, 160.

### 3. We are bolstered by obeying the Bible.

Ills: 2 Timothy 3:14-17. Travel 2023 practicing reading, studying and obeying the Bible, God's book. We are so blessed to have God's Holy Word.

## II. Let The Holy Spirit Be Our Tour Guide (v. 21)

Expl: The Holy Spirit speaks only what He hears from the Father. He speaks to us individually the will of God Romans 8:26-27. Jesus told the 11 disciples what the Holy Spirit would do in them and through them (John 14:15-18, 25-26).

### 1. We are to hear and obey the Spirit's inward witness. (v. 21)

Ills: God speaks to the heart of the individual. "The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it'" (Acts 8:29). In Acts 13:2 we read, "While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them'" (Acts 13:2). God speaks to us in the heart, the soul, our Spirit.

### 2. We are to hear and obey the Spirit's outward witness. (v. 21)

Ills: God speaks through preachers, teachers, various individuals and music. The Holy Spirit used Billy Graham to preach to millions and George Beverly Shea to sing the gospel also to millions. The Holy Spirit speaks to us through the Scriptures and the Spirit.

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### **III. Let The Circumstances Of Life Be Our Strength** (vv. 19-20)

Expl: Life often holds "the bread of adversity and the water of affliction." Jesus told His disciples "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

1. God uses circumstances to force us to look to Him. (v. 19)

Ills: Life's circumstances often give us no place to look but up. Job said, "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you" (Job 42:5). Jonah looked up to God (Jonah 2:1-7). We must always let the hard times, the storms of life make us better and not bitter.

2. God uses circumstances to force us to listen to Him. (v. 20)

Ills: Paul had a thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Paul asked three times for it to be removed. God had a clear word for Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (v. 9a). God's answer to our questions might not be what we want to hear but it will be best for us.

### **IV. Let Sin Have No Place In Our Walk With God** (v. 22)

Expl: Judah's whole problem was sin. 30:1-2, 8-11, 12-14. The answer is found in verse 22. They were a people that disobeyed God, killed the true prophets, worshipped false gods and idols and looked to Egypt instead of looking to God. You can't walk with a holy God and live an unholy life.

1. Sin is a heavy weight to carry for the journey. (v. 22)

Ills: Idols of any kind are a burden to daily living. Hebrews 12:1-3 is good advice. A marathon runner is never seen in a race wearing heavy winter clothing and work shoes.

2. Sin is a midnight road in our journey. (v. 22)

Ills: The Bible has a lot to say about darkness and light. It is hard to walk in the dark. It is difficult to see in the dark. Isaiah wrote about the coming of Jesus, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2). Jesus said, "As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent me. Night is coming when no man can work. While I am in the world I am the light of the world" (John 9:4-5). "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body is full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Matthew 6:22-23).

3. Sin is a dead end street in our journey. (v. 22)

Ills: For the person without Jesus Christ as Savior the journey leads to eternal separation from God. For the disciple of Jesus Christ the journey results in a useless life. "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God" (Ephesians 4:30) "Do not put out the Spirit's fire" What a terrible life! Don't live a useless life when you can live a useful life.