

Responsibility - The “Walk” of the Believer

a study for the College and Career Class at Gulf Coast Baptist Church

by Steve Thomas 1/2/22

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Eph 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Eph 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

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

Introduction

The believer is given much information on how he is to order his life, or deport himself. The book of Ephesians gives six examples in just three chapters. Paul's letter to the Ephesians is divided neatly in half, the first three chapters clearly laying out the believer's position In Christ, and the last three chapters showing what the life of the believer will look like when he lives ever mindful of this position. The verses listed above are excellent examples of this layout. Paul tells the believers to order their lives around the good works that God ordained, and then shows them how to do this in the later chapters.

Walk in the good works ordained by God

The believer should order his life around seeking the desirous will of God. This entails asking himself, “Is this what God wants for me?” when a major decision is being made. The believer is created In Christ for the purpose of the good works that were ordained before creation. The set of good works that each believer has is unique and will be made possible by a spirit filled walk.

Walk worthy of the vocation

This is the introduction to the second half of the book of Ephesians, the “therefore” is an excellent throw back to the previous section where the believer's position is laid out in detail. The believer's life should match his position. Eternal life begins at the moment of salvation. The believer possesses God's quality of life when he believes the facts of the gospel. This calling should have intentional choices made to match it. Verses two and three give qualities that should be present in the making of the believer's priorities: lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, love, unity, and

peace. These items should be present in the intentional choices of the believer as he orders his life.

Do not walk in the vanity of your mind

The thought is completed in verse 23. Live in the regenerated renewed mind, not in the old man – the position that existed in Adam. In Adam the individual has a darkened mind, with no ability to understand the mind of God. He is alienated from God's quality of life. There is no hope here, no future, no illumination. The heart is blinded. This coincidentally is why believers should not be surprised when the unbeliever makes bad choices. He is blind and will stumble through life without sight.

Walk in love

A rewording of the New Commandment, which replaces the Great commandment for the believer. The ability to love as Christ loved is the new standard, and is possible with God's quality of life in the renewed mind.

Walk as children of light

John uses this language in his epistle. With Christ Jesus as a present possession, the believer has life. He must order his life in such a way that light is the default setting, not darkness. Paul gives the qualities that should not be present in the believer's life in the previous verses. Unfortunately, they do pop up from time to time in the carnal believer's life, this should not be so.

Walk circumspectly

The letter takes the believer back to the will of God and points out that it is wisdom to order the life after God's will, instead of the folly of a selfish life. The next verses point out the qualities of a spiritual Christian, praise with a melodic heart, gratefulness, and submission to authority. If these are missing from your life, then carnality is the norm.

Conclusion

Carrying God's quality of life with him gives the believer a tremendous responsibility. The walk should match the calling. The believer should not simply react to life, being carried along by the current, but should be intentional about living the Christian life that God intended.