

"WALKING WORTHY OF YOUR CALLING"

EPHESIANS 4:1-3

INTRODUCTION

"I THEREFORE, THE PRISONER OF THE LORD, ENTREAT YOU TO WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE CALLING WITH WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED"

AS WE MOVE THROUGH THIS EPISTLE WE COME TO A SLIGHT BEND IN THE ROAD.

AS WE TRAVEL ALONG IT, THE FARTHER WE GO THE MORE LIKELY WE WILL BE TO LOSE SIGHT OF WHAT CAME BEFORE, AND FORGET THAT IT IS, NEVERTHELESS, THE SAME ROAD, AND WHAT CAME BEFORE BROUGHT US TO WHERE WE ARE NOW.

PAUL MAKES HIS TRANSITION WITH THE WORD 'THEREFORE', AND SO I WILL BE FAITHFUL TO POINT YOU BACK TO THE PREVIOUS CHAPTERS AND SAY 'LOOK ONCE MORE BEFORE WE PASS ON'.

GO ALL THE WAY BACK IN YOUR MIND AND REMEMBER THAT HE TAUGHT US THAT THE "GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST...HAS BLESSED US WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST".

BE REMINDED THAT "HE CHOSE US IN HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, THAT WE SHOULD BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS BEFORE HIM."

REJOICE ONCE MORE THAT HE HAS PREDESTINED US TO ADOPTION AS SONS THROUGH CHRIST TO HIMSELF AND TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY.

REMEMBER THE MIGHTY DEEDS HE HAS WROUGHT IN PUTTING AN END TO THE ENMITY BETWEEN MEN AND MEN AND MEN AND GOD,

AND BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT, USHERED US INTO THE VERY

THRONE ROOM OF HEAVEN TO STAND AS FAMILY BEFORE HOLY GOD.

AND THEN ONCE MORE BE REMINDED THAT THE THINGS PAUL HAS PRAYED FOR US AT THE END OF CHAPTER THREE ARE THINGS THAT CAN ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,

BUT THAT POWER IS THE SAME THAT RAISED CHRIST JESUS FROM THE DEAD, AND DOES INDEED WORK IN US TO ACCOMPLISH THOSE THINGS, TO STRENGTHEN THE INNER MAN, TO LET US COMPREHEND THE INFINITE AND UNFATHOMABLE LOVE OF CHRIST AND TO BE FILLED UP TO ALL THE FULNESS OF GOD.

THESE ARE THE THINGS HE HAS MADE US AND RECKONS US TO BE, BELIEVER, AND YOU MUST KEEP THIS IN MIND AS WE STUDY VERSE 1 OF CHAPTER 4, OR YOU WILL MISS THE POINT COMPLETELY.

NOTICE FIRST, THAT ONE MORE TIME HE REFERS TO HIMSELF AS 'THE PRISONER OF THE LORD'.

AND I HAVE TO MENTION IT, BECAUSE IT SERVES A DIFFERENT PURPOSE THIS TIME THAN BEFORE.

PAUL IS NOT JUST CONTINUALLY BRINGING UP HIS CIRCUMSTANCES TO INCITE SYMPATHY FOR HIMSELF.

PREVIOUSLY, HE WANTED TO GIVE THEM ASSURANCE THAT HE SAW HIMSELF AS BEING IN THE CENTER OF GOD'S WILL, AND THAT THEY SHOULD NOT FRET OR SORROW FOR HIM;

AND ALSO THAT EVEN IN HIS CIRCUMSTANCES HE WAS STILL A MINISTER OF JESUS CHRIST AND CONTINUING IN THE WORK OF THE KINGDOM.

BUT HERE, HIS PURPOSE IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT. HE IS ABOUT TO EXHORT THEM IN THEIR CHRISTIAN WALK, AND IN REMINDING THEM OF WHERE HE IS AT THE OUTSET, HE

IS EFFECTIVELY REMOVING FROM THEM IN ADVANCE ANY ABILITY TO POINT TO THEIR OWN PHYSICAL CIRCUMSTANCES AS AN EXCUSE TO WALK ANY OTHER WAY.

“BUT I LIVE WITH A NAGGING MOTHER IN LAW” “YEAH? WELL I’M IN PRISON”

“BUT I HAVE REBELLIOUS TEENAGED CHILDREN” “YEAH? WELL I’M CHAINED TO A ROMAN SOLDIER WHO HASN’T EVER HEARD OF DEODORANT”

“BUT I HAVE A STRUGGLE WITH DEBT THAT OCCUPIES ME CONSTANTLY.” “WELL, I’VE LEARNED TO BE ABASED AND TO ABOUND, AND RIGHT NOW I’M DEFINITELY ABASED; BUT I’M WALKING THE WALK.”

IT’S JUST KIND OF HARD TO EXCUSE YOURSELF TO SOMEONE WHO IS IN MUCH WORSE CIRCUMSTANCES THAN YOUR OWN, YET CONTINUING SUCCESSFULLY IN WHAT HE’S CHALLENGING YOU TO DO.

FOR EXAMPLE, IF SOMEONE WITH HIS LEG CHOPPED OFF AT THE KNEE AND USING A CRUTCH SAYS TO YOU “WALK FIVE MILES WITH ME”, YOU MIGHT SIMPLY REFUSE TO GO BECAUSE YOU DON’T WANT TO GO, BUT YOU WON’T BE LIKELY TO CITE A SORE PINKY TOE AS YOUR REASON FOR REFUSING.

SO HE SAYS, “I...ENTREAT YOU...” , THAT WORD ‘ENTREAT’ MEANING TO ‘APPEAL TO’...

“I APPEAL TO YOU...” AND HE IS JUSTIFIED IN DOING SO, IN THAT HE IS WALKING THE ROAD BEFORE THEM AND IS NOT CALLING THEM TO ANYPLACE HE HAS NOT TRAVELED.

“LOOK AT YOUR BACK TRAIL! GET ANOTHER GOOD LOOK AT THE THINGS WE’VE ENCOUNTERED SO FAR, AND THEN TAKE THIS BEND WITH ME AND SEE WHAT COMES NEXT AS

INTEGRAL TO WHAT WAS BEFORE.”

NOW THERE ARE TWO KEY WORDS IN THIS VERSE THAT MUST BE STUDIED CAREFULLY FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF ALL THAT COMES AFTERWARD. THEY ARE ‘WORTHY’, AND ‘CALLING’.

SO THAT’S WHERE WE WILL STAY TODAY.

THE FIRST WORD IS “WORTHY.”

NOW I SUSPECT THAT UNLESS DELIBERATE THOUGHT IS GIVEN TO IT, MOST OF US THESE DAYS WOULD READ PAST THAT WORD ‘WORTHY’ AND GO ON WITH THE SENSE THAT IT MEANS THE SAME AS ‘DESERVING’. AND I GUESS THAT DOES COME IN TO A DEGREE.

BUT THE ACTUAL MEANING OF THE WORD BEING USED THERE, TO BE MORE PRECISE, IS TO BE ‘CONSISTENT WITH’.

AND A SECOND RENDERING GIVEN IS ‘MATCHING’, OR ‘COORDINATED’, LIKE WE MIGHT SAY ABOUT SOMEONE’S CLOTHING.

“HIS SHIRT DOESN’T MATCH HIS PANTS.” OR “LOOK HOW WELL COORDINATED THE COLORS ARE IN HER DRESS AND ACCESSORIES”.

BACKING UP TO THE FIRST DEFINITION, ‘TO BE CONSISTENT WITH’, WE MIGHT USE IT IN THIS CONTEXT.

THE GENERAL’S EXPECTATIONS OF HIS TROOPS AS THEY ENTER INTO BATTLE, IS THAT THEIR DEPLOYMENT AND TACTICS WILL BE CONSISTENT WITH THEIR YEARS OF TRAINING AND THE OATH THEY HAVE TAKEN.

SO PAUL IS APPEALING TO HIS READERS, AS THEY CONSIDER ALL THE THINGS HE HAS BEEN TELLING THEM THAT THEY NOW ARE IN CHRIST, THAT THEY ENDEAVOR TO LIVE DAILY IN A WAY THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH ~

THAT MATCHES ~ THEIR CALLING; AND WE'LL GET TO THAT WORD 'CALLING' IN A FEW MINUTES.

NOW CHRISTIANS, BEING DILIGENT TO STAY TRUE TO MY CALLING AS A PREACHER OF THE WORD OF GOD, I HAVE TO BE ENTIRELY HONEST WITH YOU AND WITH MYSELF, AND INCLUDE MYSELF WHEN I SAY, THAT I THINK THERE ARE REALLY VERY FEW CHRISTIANS TODAY WHO ARE WALKING IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THEIR, OUR, CALLING.

I DO HAVE TO SAY THAT I THINK TO A VERY LARGE DEGREE, THE REASON FOR THIS IS IGNORANCE.

IT IS IGNORANCE OF WHAT WE REALLY ARE IN CHRIST, AND THAT IS DUE TO SHALLOW, OFTEN UNBIBLICAL TEACHING.

WHETHER PASTORS WILL ADMIT IT OPENLY OR NOT, THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF PRESSURE, IMPOSED FROM WITHOUT AND FROM WITHIN, TO APPEAR SUCCESSFUL.

A CHURCH IS SUCCESSFUL IF IT IS BRINGING IN THE MASSES.

IT IS SUCCESSFUL IF IT IS SENDING FOLKS OUT TO THE MISSION FIELD.

IT IS SUCCESSFUL IF IT IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ITS COMMUNITY.

IT IS SUCCESSFUL IF IT HAS SATELLITE MINISTRIES GOING OUT FROM IT TO TEENS, TO THE HOMELESS, TO THE SHUT-IN AND SO FORTH;

AND IT IS REALLY SUCCESSFUL IF ITS SENIOR PASTOR HAS BOOKS PUBLISHED AND MAYBE A RADIO MINISTRY, OR A REGULAR ANNUAL CIRCUIT OF SEMINARS...

YOU GET THE PICTURE.

UNFORTUNATELY, FAR TOO OFTEN, AND VERY EARLY IN

THE QUEST FOR THIS KIND OF VISIBLE AND TANGIBLE SUCCESS, SOUND BIBLICAL TEACHING TAKES A BACK SEAT.

BECAUSE THE MASSES IN GENERAL DO NOT WANT THE CHALLENGE TO GO DEEPER, THEY DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO STUDY TO UNDERSTAND THE DEEPER THINGS OF GOD AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO HIM.

THEY DON'T WANT THE ACCOUNTABILITY THAT COMES WITH UNDERSTANDING, ANY MORE THAN THE YOUNG BOY WANTS TO EAT HIS SPINACH AND BEETS.

I THINK IT IS A NATURAL TENDENCY OF THE FALLEN NATURE, TO DESIRE A SORT OF "PETER PAN" CHRISTIANITY.

WE'VE LIFTED OFF AND FLOWN TO NEVER-LAND, BUT WE DON'T WANT TO GROW UP. ('NOT I. NOT ME')

AND IT STANDS TO REASON THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID GROWING SPIRITUALLY, WE HAVE TO CONTINUALLY QUENCH THE SPIRIT AND HIS WORKING IN US. THIS IS CALLED 'SIN'.

SO THE TEMPTATION FOR LEADERSHIP SEEKING SUCCESS, IS TO CONSISTENTLY FEED PEOPLE PIZZA, REASONING THAT ALL OF THE INDIVIDUAL INGREDIENTS, AFTER ALL, ARE HEALTHY IN THEMSELVES, AND AFTER ALL, THEY ARE BEING FED, AND ISN'T IT MORE IMPORTANT TO GET THE MANY SAVED, THAN TO CONCENTRATE ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEW?

NOW I AM GENERALIZING. YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE IN ALL THE BIG AND SUCCESSFUL CHURCHES.

SO HERE IS WHERE I'M GOING WITH ALL OF THIS.

CHRISTIANS WHOSE STEADY DIET FROM THE SCRIPTURES CONSISTS OF "...ELEMENTARY TEACHING ABOUT THE

CHRIST, ...REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS AND OF FAITH TOWARD GOD, OF INSTRUCTION ABOUT WASHINGS (BAPTISMS) AND LAYING ON OF HANDS, AND THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD AND ETERNAL JUDGMENT” (HEB 6:1,2),

IN OTHER WORDS, THE BASICS, ARE OF COURSE GOING TO CONTINUE IN A DAILY WALK THAT IS CHARACTERIZED, NOT BY A SENSE OF VICTORY AND POWER IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, BUT OF FALLING DOWN AND GETTING UP, AND STUMBLING AND UNCERTAINTY, OF OCCASIONAL HIGHS AND MANY LOWS, OF REACTING TO LIFE IN VERY MUCH THE SAME WAY THE UNSAVED PERSON DOES, BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE!

THEIR WALK DOES NOT MATCH THEIR CALLING, BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT GOD CALLS THEM!

THEIR WALK IS NOT IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THEIR CALLING, BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW THEY HAVE A CALLING!

HERE'S A QUIZ: DO YOU KNOW YOU HAVE A CALLING?

BEFORE YOU WALKED IN HERE TODAY (OR READ THIS) WERE YOU CONSCIOUSLY AWARE THAT YOU HAVE A CALLING FROM GOD?

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HEARD A RADIO OR TELEVISION PREACHER TELL YOU THAT YOU, AS A BORN AGAIN BELIEVER IN CHRIST, HAVE A CALLING ~ AND THEN CHALLENGED YOU TO WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THAT CALLING?

I WOULD BE BOLD ENOUGH TO PRESUME OPENLY THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE VERY MANY 'YES' ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS.

IT'S JUST NOT SOMETHING WE'RE CHALLENGED OFTEN TO THINK ABOUT. WE'RE SAVED. WE'RE CHRISTIANS.

WE KNOW, I HOPE, THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN US AND THAT HE HELPS US.

BUT WE TEND TO THINK OF THAT HELP AS BEING A SORT OF GUIDE THROUGH A DARK CAVE.

BUT THE MESSAGE I SEE COMING CLEARLY THROUGH THE HISTORY OF THE EARLY CHURCH AS GIVEN TO US BY LUKE, AND THE DOCTRINAL TEACHINGS OF THE EPISTLES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, IS THAT THE CHRISTIAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

HE IS TO MANIFEST A WALK OF VICTORY OVER THE FLESH AND THE WORLD BECAUSE HE IS IN CHRIST, AND CHRIST IN HIM.

JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES THAT THEY WOULD DO GREATER THINGS THAN HE DID BECAUSE OF HIS GOING TO THE FATHER, AND SENDING THE COMFORTER TO INDWELL THEM. AND THEY DID.

THEY DID THE THINGS HE DID, AND EVEN SOME THAT IT IS NOT RECORDED HE DID WHILE HERE.

AND WE'RE NOT ALWAYS GIVEN THE SPECIFICS OF THINGS THEY DID;

SOMETIMES WE'RE SIMPLY TOLD THAT THOSE OBSERVING THEM KNEW THEY WERE CHRISTIANS BY THEIR ACTIONS AND THEIR TREATMENT OF ONE ANOTHER.

THEIR VERY LIVES WERE A WITNESS THAT THEY KNEW JESUS.

SO THIS SHOULD BE EVIDENCED IN OUR LIVES ALSO.

WALKING IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH OUR CALLING.

IN EPHESIANS 4:1, PAUL TALKS ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN'S "VOCATION" OR "CALLING."

THE BIBLE MENTIONS SEVERAL DIFFERENT CALLINGS THAT GOD GIVES US AS BELIEVERS:

(I). FIRST THERE IS THE CALL TO SALVATION.

(A). WE OFTEN THINK OF CALLING AS A PARTICULAR VOCATION.

(1). WE TALK OF BEING CALLED TO PREACH.

(2). WE TALK OF BEING CALLED TO THE MISSION FIELD.

(3). WE TALK OF BEING CALLED TO THE MUSIC MINISTRY.

(4). SOME FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN CALLED TO BE DOCTORS, LAWYERS, FARMERS OR BANKERS.

(B). THESE ARE ALL CALLINGS, BUT THERE IS A HIGHER CALLING THAT PRECEDES THESE. IT IS THE CALLING TO BE SAVED.

(1). II TIMOTHY 1:9 "GOD HAS SAVED US AND CALLED US WITH A HOLY CALLING, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE WHICH WAS GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN."

(2). ROMANS 8:30 "FOR WHOM HE DID FOREKNOW, HE ALSO DID PREDESTINATE TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, THAT HE MIGHT BE THE FIRST BORN AMONG

MANY BRETHREN.”

(3). ROMANS 8:31 “MOREOVER WHOM HE DID PREDESTINATE, THEM HE ALSO CALLED: AND WHOM HE CALLED, THEM HE ALSO JUSTIFIED; AND WHOM HE JUSTIFIED, HE ALSO GLORIFIED.”

(4). THE MOST GLORIOUS THING THAT CAN HAPPEN TO A PERSON IS FOR GOD TO EXTEND TO THEM AN INVITATION TO BE SAVED.

(C). SEVERAL THINGS ARE NOTICED ABOUT THIS CALLING TO SALVATION.

(1). GOD CALLS US FIRST, WE DON'T CALL HIM.

(a). WE ARE NOT THE CALLER, WE ARE THE CALLED.

(b). GOD CALLS US, WE DON'T CALL HIM.

(2). THE CALL TO SALVATION IS THE GREATEST HONOR BESTOWED UPON MAN.

(a). IN PHILIPPIANS 3:14 PAUL CALLED IT “THE HIGH CALLING.”

(b). IN HEBREWS 3:1, IT IS CALLED “THE HEAVENLY CALLING.”

(c). IN II TIMOTHY 1:9, PAUL CALLS IT “THE HOLY CALLING.”

(d). WHEN GOD CALLED YOU TO SALVATION, HE CALLED YOU TO BECOME JOINT HEIRS WITH JESUS

CHRIST.

(3). CHRISTIANS MUST LIVE A LIFE WHICH IS BECOMING TO SUCH A HIGH CALLING.

(a). PAUL SAID TO WALK WORTHY OF YOUR CALLING TO WHICH YOU ARE CALLED.

(b). PAUL IS SAYING THAT WE SHOULD LIVE A LIFE THAT IS BECOMING AND SUITABLE TO THE NOBLE POSITION WE HAVE BEEN CALLED.

(c). AS BELIEVERS AND OFFICERS, YOU CARRY THE NAME OF CHRIST UPON YOU, AND YOU MUST LIVE WORTHY OF HIS NAME.

(D). IT IS THROUGH US THAT JESUS FINDS HIS EARTHLY WALK.

(1). HE WALKS AND LIVES IN OUR LIVES.

(2). WE PRESENT THE ONLY CHRIST THE WORLD WILL EVER SEE.

(3). PAUL IS SIMPLY SAYING, "REMEMBER WHOSE CHILD YOU ARE, AND ACT ACCORDINGLY.

(4). DON'T EVER BRING SHAME TO THE NAME OF CHRIST BY THE WAY WE ACT, TALK, DRESS, THINK OR WORK.

(5). IN EVERYTHING WE ARE OR DO, WE MUST WALK WORTHY OF THE VOCATION TO WHICH WE ARE CALLED.

(II). NOT ONLY ARE WE CALLED TO SALVATION, BUT WE ARE ALSO CALLED TO SANCTIFICATION.

(A). JUST AS SURE AS GOD CALLS US TO SALVATION, HE ALSO CALLS US TO SEPARATION AND HOLY, RIGHTEOUS LIVING.

(1). II CORINTHIANS 6:17, "WHEREFORE, COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, SAITH THE LORD, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THINGS; AND I WILL; RECEIVE YOU."

(B). PAUL HAD A LOT OF INSTRUCTION FOR "WORTHY WALKING" IN CHAPTERS 4-6 THAT DEALS WITH SANCTIFICATION.

(1). IN EPHESIANS 4:7-16, HE INSTRUCTS US TO USE OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR THE EDIFYING OF THE ENTIRE BODY OF CHRIST.

(2). IN EPHESIANS 4:17-32, HE INSTRUCTS US TO PUT OFF THE OLD SINFUL NATURES, AND TO BE CLOTHED WITH OUR NEW SPIRITUAL NATURE.

(a). HE EMPHASIZES NOT LYING TO EACH OTHER, NOT HOLDING GRUDGES, NOT GIVING THE DEVIL AND DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY IN OUR LIVES.

(b). HE INSTRUCTS US TO WORK HARD, CONTROL OUR TONGUES AND FOLLOW THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

(3). HE INSTRUCTED US TO LIVE BY LOVE, AND TO LIVE PURE AND MORAL LIVES.

(4). HE INSTRUCTED US TO WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT, BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.

(5). HE TOLD US TO BE GOOD HUSBANDS AND GOOD WIVES.

(6). HE TOLD US TO BE GOOD PARENTS, AND OUR CHILDREN TO BE GOOD CHILDREN.

(7). HE TOLD US TO PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD.

(III). NOT ONLY ARE WE CALLED TO SALVATION AND SANCTIFICATION, BUT WE ARE ALSO CALLED TO SERVICE.

(A). IF WE ARE TO WALK WORTHILY, WE MUST SERVE CHRIST IN ALL THAT WE DO.

(1). WE MUST DO WHAT WE DO FOR HIS GLORY, AND NOT OUR OWN.

(2). WE ARE HERE TO SERVE GOD, AND TO SERVE OTHERS.

(3). AND THIS IS THE ONLY KIND OF WALK THAT GOD WILL DEEM WORTHY OF HIS BLESSINGS AND POWER.

(B). YOUR SERVICE IS TO BE ENERGETIC AND SINCERE.

(1). PAUL SAID IN EPHESIANS 4:2, THAT WE ARE TO WALK IN LOWLINESS AND MEEKNESS.

(a). THE WORD "LOWLINESS" ACTUALLY MEANS "HUMILITY."

**(b). WE ARE TO HAVE AN APPROPRIATE
OPINION OF OURSELVES.**

**(c). WE ARE NOT TO HAVE AN INFLATED
OPINION OF OURSELVES THAT IS
CAUSED BY PRIDE.**

(2). PAUL SAID WE ARE TO WALK IN MEEKNESS.

**(a). TO BE MEEK DOES NOT MEAN TO BE
WEAK.**

**(b). MEEKNESS IS POWER UNDER
CONTROL FOR THE BENEFIT OF
OTHERS.**

**(c). TO BE MEEK MEANS TO DISPLAY THE
QUALITIES OF KINDNESS, MILDNESS,
GENTLENESS, AND TEACHABLENESS.**

**(d). MEEKNESS IS A QUALITY OF CHRIST
THAT WE MUST POSSESS WHEN WE
TAKE ON HIS NATURE.**

**(e). JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 11:29, "TAKE
MY YOKE UPON YOU AND LEARN OF
ME, FOR I AM MEEK AND LOWLY IN
HEART, AND YE SHALL FIND REST
UNTO YOUR SOULS."**

**(3). PAUL SAID IN EPHESIANS 4:2 THAT WE ARE
TO WALK IN LONGSUFFERING.**

**(a). TO BE LONG SUFFERING MEANS TO
BEAR INJURIES PATIENTLY WITHOUT
SEEKING REVENGE.**

(b). TO BE LONGSUFFERING MEANS TO BE

**WILLING TO BE HURT WITHOUT
LASHING BACK IN DEFENSE AND
REVENGE.**

- (c). IT MEANS TO BE PATIENT, GENTLE,
AND SLOW IN AVENGING INJURIES.**
 - (d). PAUL SAID IN II CORINTHIANS 6:4-6
“THAT WE APPROVE OURSELVES AS
MINISTERS OF GOD BY
LONGSUFFERING.**
 - (e). YOU MUST LEARN TO BEAR
PATIENTLY THE REMARKS AND
INJUSTICES WHICH HURT AND
THREATEN US.**
 - (f). JESUS TAUGHT US THAT WHEN
SOMEONE SMITE US ON ONE CHEEK,
TURN THE OTHER CHEEK FOR HIS TO
SMITE.**
- (4). IN EPHESIANS 4:2, PAUL SAID THAT WE ARE
TO WALK IN AN ATTITUDE OF LOVE.**
- (a). HE SAID THAT WE SHOULD FOREBEAR
ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE.**
 - (b). NOTE, THIS LOVE IS THE DEEPEST
TYPE OF LOVE EXPERIENCED IN THE
HUMAN HEART.**
 - (c). LOVE IS THE KEY TO BEING
LONGSUFFERING.**
 - (d). PAUL SAID IN I CORINTHIANS 13:4,
“LOVE SUFFERETH LONG AND IS
KIND.”**

(e). WE ARE ABLE TO PUT UP WITH EACH OTHER BECAUSE WE LOVE EACH OTHER.

(f). AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE ARE TO KEEP ON LOVING AND FORBEARING EACH OTHER IN SPITE OF OUR FAULTS.

(C). PAUL SAID IN EPHESIANS 4:3, THAT OUR WALK INVOLVES AN ENDEAVOR.

(1). PAUL SAID THAT OUR WALK MUST INVOLVE SOME EFFORT TO ACCOMPLISH CERTAIN IMPORTANT TASKS.

(a). HE SAID THAT WE MUST ENDEAVOR TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE.

(2). PAUL SAYS THAT WE MUST “WORK AT” MAINTAINING UNITY.

(a). UNITY IS SOMETHING THAT WE MUST WORK TO KEEP.

(b). WHETHER IT BE IN A MARRIAGE, A HOME, A CHURCH, OR AT YOUR JOB, IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AUTOMATICALLY. YOU MUST WORK AT IT.

(c). THIS SOMETIMES MEANS BITING YOUR TONGUE WHEN YOU WANT TO SPEAK.

(d). THIS MEANS NOT ALWAYS DEMANDING OUR WAY BUT FOLLOWING JOYFULLY THE WILL OF

THE MAJORITY.

- (e). AVOIDING AT ALL COST, GOSSIP, AND CRITICAL REMARKS.**
 - (f). AVOIDING THE SPREAD OF RUMORS.**
 - (g). ANY CHURCH THAT IS GOING TO EXPERIENCE HARMONY AND UNITY MUST WORK AT IT.**
 - (h). A DIVIDED CHURCH IS A DYING CHURCH.**
 - (i). SOME CHURCHES CAN'T BUY A BUS, PAINT A BATHROOM, PLAN A PROMOTION, SCHEDULE A REVIVAL OR TAKE A SPECIAL OFFERING WITHOUT FIGHTING AND SQUABBLING ABOUT IT.**
 - (j). GOD CANNOT AND WILL NOT BLESS SUCH CHILDISHNESS.**
 - (k). IN PROVERBS 6:19, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT THE LORD HATE IS, "HE THAT SOWETH DISCORD AMONG THE BRETHREN."**
- (3). PAUL SAID IN EPHESIANS 4:3, WE MUST ENDEAVOR TO MAINTAIN THE BOND OF PEACE.**
- (a). DIVISION CAN ALSO DESTROY YOUR HOME.**
 - (b). IF YOU DON'T WANT DIVISION IN YOUR HOME, YOU NEED TO WORK AT**

GUARDING ITS UNITY.

CONCLUSION

**IF YOU ARE GOING TO WALK WORTHY OF YOUR CALLING,
YOU HAVE GOT TO ANSWER THE CALL TO SERVICE.**

(A). YOU CAN SERVE BY LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE.

**(1). I HEARD JESUS SAY IN MATTHEW 5:16, “LET
YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN, THAT
THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS, AND
GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN
HEAVEN.”**

(B). YOU CAN SERVE BY GIVING YOUR ALL TO HIM.

**(1). I HEARD PAUL SAY IN ROMANS 12:1-2,
“PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING
SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD,
WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE.”**

**(C). WE SHOULD ANSWER THE CALL TO SERVE
BECAUSE THERE IS ONE BODY, AND ONE SPIRIT,
EVEN AS YOU ARE CALLED IN ONE HOPE OF YOUR
CALLING; ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM,
ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL, WHO IS ABOVE
ALL, AND THROUGH ALL, AND IN YOU ALL.**

**(1). ONE GOD MEANS THAT GOD IS CREATOR OF
ALL, AND AS SUCH, HE IS SUPREME OVER
ALL.**

**(2). PAUL SAID IN I TIMOTHY 2:5-6, “FOR THERE
IS ONE GOD, AND ONE MEDIATOR BETWEEN
GOD AND MEN, THE MAN JESUS CHRIST;
WHO GAVE HIMSELF A RANSOM FOR ALL,
TO BE TESTIFIED IN DUE TIME.”**

- (3). AND JOHN 3:16 TELLS US “THAT GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM, SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.”**
- (4). AND JOHN 15:13 SAYS, “GREATER LOVE HAS NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIEND.”**
- (a). JESUS DIED BECAUSE HE LOVES US.**
 - (b). THEY BURIED HIM IN A BORROWED TOMB.**
 - (c). BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE ROSE WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HANDS.**
 - (d). POWER..FOR BELIEVERS TO WALK WORTHY OF THEIR CALLING.**
 - (e). POWER..FOR YOU TO WALK WORTHY BY USING YOUR GIFTS.**
 - (f). POWER...FOR YOU TO WALK WORTHY BY WALKING DIFFERENTLY FROM THE WORLD.**
 - (g). POWER...FOR YOU TO WALK PUTTING OFF THE OLD GARMENTS OF THE OLD MAN.**
 - (h). POWER...FOR YOU TO WALK FOLLOWING GOD.**
 - (i). POWER...FOR YOU TO WALK IN A SPIRIT OF LOVE AND SUBMISSION.**