



DOING HIS WILL

(Part 2)

Ephesians 5:1-17

Ps alm 119:1-16

1 J ohn 2:3-17

20 March 2022

Pressing Forward into 2022

- Our goals as the Body of Christ.
- Discipleship Worksheet: Catechism & Memory Passage
- Last week: **1 John 2:3-6**. Blessed are those who walk in the Law of the LORD! (Psalm 119:1-3)
- Did we pray Colossians 1:9-11 for each other? Do we remember Col. 4:12?

Is Doing the Will of God Important? (Matt 7:21-23; James 1:22; 1 Jn 2:17)

What Happens at Rebirth?

- Rebirth (“being born-again” - John 3:3-8) is a SUPERNATURAL ACT of God wherein He “re-creates” a sinner, one of His enemies, into a NEW CREATURE. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- At rebirth, God takes a sinner’s heart of stone and replaces it with a NEW heart of flesh. The heart is the center of man’s thoughts (mind), emotions, desires, and will. In giving man a new heart God gives man a NEW NATURE. (Ezekiel 36:26; 2 Peter 1:4)
- At rebirth, God gives a sinner HIS SPIRIT to **cause** this new creation to walk in His statutes, so that they will keep His judgments and DO THEM. (Ezekiel 36:27)
- At rebirth, God adopts a sinner into His family making him/her a child of God and an heir of God. (John 1:12-13; James 1:18; 1 John 3:5-10; Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:5)
- At rebirth, God transforms a person living by their own will into a person who now lives to do God’s will. (Psa 42:1-2; 73:25-26; Matt 7:21; 12:50; 1 John 2:17)
- The “natural” response to one being born-again is OBEDIENCE to the commandments of God. (Ezekiel 36:26-27; 1 John 2:3-6; 3:6-10; 5:1-3; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14)

THEREFORE

- Definition: “for that reason”; “accordingly”; “that being the case”
- 15x in Ephesians; 5x in chapter 5.

Our First 'Therefore' (Ephesians 5:1; 4:1; Colossians 1:10)

- Our first "therefore" (5:1) points us back to chapter 4. Paul beseeches US to "walk worthy of our calling." (Ephesians 4:1)
- (5:2) "to walk" gives the idea of **progress** and a **forward direction**.
- (Matthew 11:29-30) We do not walk alone doing our own thing. We are commanded to be **YOKED** to Christ and learn from Him.
- The Christian walk is one of **FOLLOWING** Christ. "To follow" as in Luke 9:23 and John 10:27 shows us that we are to "walk just as He walked." (1 John 2:6; John 8:12; 12:26; 21:22; Matt 10:38)
- In the Christian life there is a narrow gate to enter and a difficult, narrow way to **walk** that leads to life. (Matthew 7:13-14; Proverbs 4:25-27)

'Therefore' Be Imitators of God (Ephesians 5:1)

- We are **commanded** (IMPERATIVE MOOD) to *always* (PRESENT TENSE) "mimic" (imitate; acts like; be like) GOD.

Walk in Love, Just As Christ (Ephesians 5:2)

- The first way to imitate God is to love **as** Christ has loved us **and** gave Himself for us - **AS WE ARE COMMANDED**. (John 13:34-35; Galatians 2:20)
 - ♥ Biblical love **denies** self and lives to serve God and others – just as Christ! (Matthew 20:28; Luke 9:23; Philip 2:5-8; 1 John 3:16)
 - ♥ Biblical love **forgives** just as we have been forgiven. (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 1:13)
 - ♥ Biblical love loves **unconditionally**. (1 John 2:12; Isaiah 43:25)
 - ♥ Our love for each other is to be **fervent; abounding** more and more. (1 Peter 4:8; 1 Thess 3:12; 4:9-10; 2 Thess 1:3)
- **x WARNING:** If we do not love our brothers and sisters, then we are not born-again! (1 John 3:14-15)

DO NOT Walk as the World (Ephesians 5:3-5)

- **WARNINGS:** 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8

DO NOT Be Deceived (Ephesians 5:6)

- Many are being deceived today! We test **everything** and **everyone** by the **written** Word of God. (Matthew 7:21-23; 24:4-5, 11, 24; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 John 4:1; Isaiah 8:20) See Colossians 2:8; 2 Peter 2:1-2.
- The **ONLY WAY** not to be **DECEIVED** is to be **ABIDING** in the **WORD**. (John 8:31; James 1:25)
- To **ABIDE** in God's Word means to **READ** it, **MEDITATE** on it, **MEMORIZE** it, **STUDY** it, and **DO** it. (See last's week sermon.)

DO NOT Be Partakers with Sons of Disobedience (Eph:7; 1 Cor 15:33)

WALK as Children of Light (Ephesians 5:8-10)

- (v. 8) The verbs are very important!
 - “you **were** . . .” PAST TENSE. Something you **were** but are not now!
 - “you **are** . . .” PRESENT TENSE. Something you NOW **are**.
- “walk” – PRESENT, ACTIVE, IMPERATIVE.
- ★ “in the Lord” – We, as Christians, must constantly remind ourselves that we are “in Christ”.
- ☆ Also the missing prepositions (in; of) are important. We were NOT IN DARKNESS but WE WERE DARKNESS ITSELF!! We are NOT IN THE LIGHT but WE ARE LIGHT! (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16)
- (v. 9) The fruit of the Spirit (of walking in the light). Light produces fruit; darkness does not.
 - **ALL goodness**. Goodness is LOVE in action. See 1 Thessalonians 5:15; 1 John 3:18; Romans 2:6-7; Gal 6:9-10; John 5:28-29.
 - **ALL righteousness**. Living (walking) in righteous character before God and man. Doing what is RIGHT in God’s eyes. (Rom 6:13; 1 Tim 6:13; 1 John 2:29; 3:6-9; Titus 2:12-14; Acts 10:35; Eccl 12:13-14)
 - **ALL truth**. God’s Word is TRUTH. Fruit of walking in light is walking in conformity to the **written** Word of God. (John 17:17; Psalm 119:151-152, 160) See 2 John 4; 3 John 3-4
 - ★ Those who do truth come to the light. Those who love evil stay away from the light. (John 3:20-21)
- (v. 10) We are to live our lives “fully pleasing” (acceptable) to the Lord. (Colossians 1:9-11; Hebrews 13:20-21; **1 Thessalonians 4:1**; 2 Timothy 2:3-4; Hebrews 11:5; **1 John 3:22**)
- To walk (live) in the light means to walk (live) before God hiding nothing! Knowing He sees everything. (Hebrews 4:13; **1 John 1:6-7**)

DO NOT Fellowship with Darkness (Ephesians 5:11-13)

- (2 Corinthians 6:14) A Christian has NO COMMUNION/FELLOWSHIP with DARKNESS!!
- We are WARNED of the deeds of the flesh:
 - Do not be partakers. (v. 7; 1 Cor 15:33)
 - Have no fellowship. (v. 11)
 - Expose it. (v. 11) **BY SHINING AS LIGHT!** (Matthew 5:14-16)
- LIGHT will naturally expose evil!

Our Last ‘THEREFORE’ - Walk Circumspectly (Ephesians 5:14-17)

- “circumspectly” means walking **carefully, exactly, purposely**.

- One walks wisely when they walk (live; do) according to the Word of God; a FOOL ignores the Word of God. (Matthew 7:24-29)
- (v. 16) A wise person knows that life (time, days, hours, minutes) is a gift of God. It is God who gives life and takes life. (Acts 17:25; Job 12:10). Therefore, a wise person “redeems the time” he/she is given. (Ecclesiastes 9:10; Colossians 3:17, 23; **Galatians 6:10**)
- (v. 16) A wise person walks (lives) circumspectly because he/she knows that the days (times) we live are EVIL. The **whole world** lies under the influence of the evil/wicked one. (1 John 5:19)
- (v. 16) **BECAUSE the DAYS are EVIL.** Fools do not take danger/evil seriously. A fools says, “It won’t happen to me.”
- (Matthew 7:24-29) Are you a FOOL or are you WISE? Do you “say” or do you “do”? Change wind, rain, floods to bombs, bullets, famine!

★ **THEREFORE . . .**

- ☆ (v. 14) **WAKE UP! NOW!** Idleness leads to so many others sins.
 - ★ (Romans 13:11-14) Let **us** cast off the works of darkness (laziness, complacency, prayerlessness, disobedience to God’s commands, etc.), and let **us** put on the armor of light. Let **us** walk properly. Let us walk in the light - HIS LIGHT. (John 8:12; 1 John 1:6-7)
 - ★ (1 Corinthians 15:34) Awake to righteousness, and do not sin.
 - ★ (1 Thess 5:6-8) Let **us** not sleep, but let **us** watch and be sober.
- ☆ (v. 17) **DO NOT BE FOOLS! USE YOUR MIND!**
 - ★ Understand what the will of the Lord is!
 - ★ (Romans 12:1-2) Our minds must be RENEWED by the **written** Word of God.
 - ★ (Colossians 1:9-11) We pray to be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, **in order that** we may walk worthy of the Lord, **fully pleasing** Him, being **fruitful** in every **good** work and **increasing** in the knowledge of Him.
 - ★ (Matthew 7:21; 12:50; 1 John 2:17) Those who do the will of God go to heaven, are in the family of God, and live forever.

Pressing Forward into 2022

- ① Pray for each other. (Matthew 6:9-15)
- ② Walk worthy of our calling. (Ephesians 4:1)
- ③ Imitate God. (Ephesians 5:1)
- ④ Walk in love as Christ has loved us. (Ephesians 5:2; John 13:34-35)
- ⑤ Walk as children of light. (Ephesians 5:8) Showing forth the fruit of all righteousness, all goodness, and all truth. (Eph 5:9; Matt 5:14-16)
- ⑥ Walk knowing that we are living is DANGEROUS times. (Ephesians 5:16)
- ⑦ Walk wisely, redeeming the time, learning and doing the will of God. (Ephesians 5:15-17)