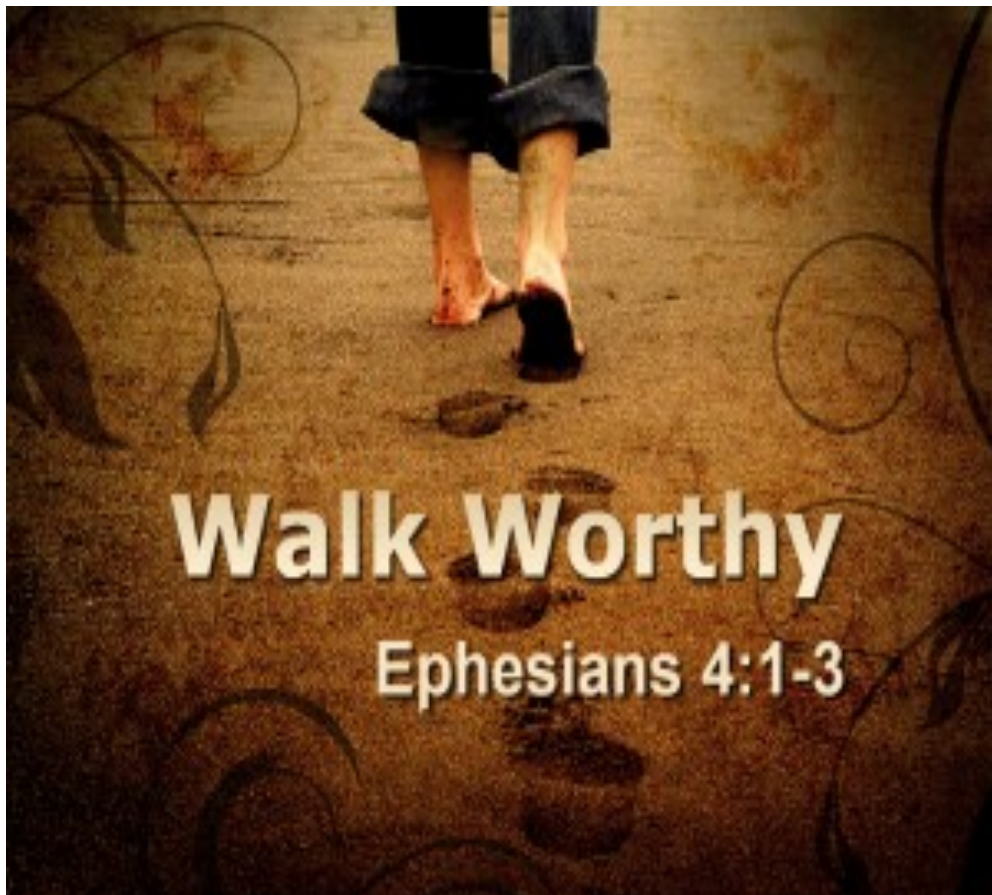


Walk Worthy by Linda A. Ratcliff, Th.D., Ed.D.

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To “walk”, in these lessons, refers to the way we live our lives. In other words, our lifestyle or way of life can be considered a “walk.” Our walk is important to the Lord; we know this because there are 229 instances in the Bible that refer to our walk. As we delve into each reference regarding our walk as a believer, I encourage you to begin adjusting the direction and stride of your walk so that it lines up more and more with the Word, day by day.

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CHAPTER 1

Walk Worthy of Your Calling

Divine Briefing ...

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3).

When we really understand how much God has done for us, we will want to serve and obey Him out of gratitude. A worthy walk, before God and those in the world who are watching, will be marked by lowliness and gentleness, not a pushy desire to defend our own rights and advance our own agenda. Our humble, forgiving, loving attitude toward one other will result in the gift of the unity of the Spirit.

Looks Like ...

The story is told about an elderly man who retired after many years in the British Army. One day a man who knew about his long and distinguished military career decided to play a prank on him. As the old soldier walked down the street holding on to his grocery bags, the jokester sneaked up behind him and shouted, "Attention!" Without hesitation, the military man dropped his arms to his side, chin up, chest out, shoulders back, eyes front, stomach in - and his bags went tumbling to the sidewalk. Without a conscious thought, that veteran was doing what comes naturally for a soldier.

Do you tend to lose your temper easily, or speak to others frequently in a sarcastic or impatient tone of voice? According to our verse, we must learn to react under fire in a manner that is worthy of our calling as believers, no matter what is going on around us. Our behavior is to line up with the example of Jesus' life. In our interactions with others, we are to be kind and patient, constantly looking out for ways we can serve. Like a soldier who has been rigorously trained, we will need to practice this, learning to patiently bear with one another in peace and with humility - until it is our automatic response in a stressful situation.

Ask Yourself ...

Do you respond to others in a manner worthy of the vocation to which you have been called? This is a question we must ask ourselves regularly.

Questions ...

1. How does Paul describe himself in Ephesians 4:1? _____

2. According to Ephesians 4:2, how are believers to walk? _____

3. What is our motivation for the walk worthy of the vocation to which we have been called? _____
4. In verse 3, what did the Apostle Paul say would be the result of such a walk? _____
5. Using Ephesians 4:4-6, list seven aspects of spiritual unity.
- a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
 - e) _____
 - f) _____
 - g) _____
6. An admirer once asked Leonard Bernstein, celebrated orchestra conductor, what was the hardest instrument to play. He replied without hesitation: "Second fiddle. I can always find plenty of first violinists, but to find one who will play second violin with as much enthusiasm or second French horn or second flute, now that's a problem."
- Based on our verses for this lesson, what would the Apostle Paul say is the root of the problem? _____
7. If we discipline ourselves to walk in the way Paul described in Ephesians 4:1-3, that will actually be enough to walk our way into heaven. (*Thought question*)
- ___ True ___ False Explain your answer. _____
8. Find another scripture that admonishes us to treat others with kindness and patience. _____

CHAPTER 2

Walk in Love

Divine Briefing ...

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 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 sweet smelling savour" (Ephesians 5:1-2).

If we are a "follower of God", we will walk in love. And, as in all things, Jesus is our example and model. Jesus loved us so much that He gave His life for us. When we are saved, God puts this same love inside of us. Now, most of us won't be asked to give up our lives in a dramatic way because of His love in us. In our case, we are most often called to do small but effective, practical things to help people experience the love of Jesus through us, and make a lasting impact on their lives.

Looks Like ...

Whether it is a complaining coworker, a complicated friendship, or a demanding family member, there will be times when we just want to give up on someone. It will seem as though all our love and patience has run out.

If we try to keep walking in love based on our personal feelings and strength, we are surely going to fail. We'll run out of steam and have nothing left to give. In such a case, we need to spend time reflecting on Jesus' example. His love was abounding in every situation He encountered, in every word He spoke, and in every step He walked - no matter how difficult.

The more we spend time in the Word, the more we will find ourselves empowered to walk in such love. This will become who we are and how we live. This will become our daily walk.

Ask Yourself ...

If you are having an issue with another person, ask the Lord to search your heart and then ask yourself, "Am I walking in and motivated by love?" If not, get your heart right first, and then deal with the problem at hand.

Questions ...

1. How are we to follow God? (Ephesians 5:1) _____

2. How are we to walk? (Ephesians 5:2) _____

3. We can't begin to imitate God in loving one another unless we understand what God's love is. What was the supreme demonstration of God's love for us? (John 3:16; Ephesians 5:2) _____
4. Following are examples of how to walk in love the way Jesus did. Explain each in your own words.
- a) Ephesians 5:25: _____

- b) John 15:13: _____

- c) John 13:34: _____

- d) 1 John 3:17: _____

- e) Hebrews 13:1-2: _____

- f) Romans 13:10: _____

- g) John 21:17: _____

5. 1 Corinthians 13 is perhaps the most famous Bible passage about love. From this chapter, what are some of the character traits you will see in the life of a person who is walking in love? _____

6. How does the world's view of love compare with God's description of how to walk in love? (*Thought question - answers will vary.*) _____

CHAPTER 3

Walk as Children of Light

Divine Briefing ...

“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

The theme of light and darkness is prominent all through the Bible. Darkness symbolizes Satan’s evil domain and the sinful deeds of those who do not obey God. It also represents the spiritual ignorance of those whose sin has blinded their eyes from the light of God’s truth (Ephesians 4:18; 2 Corinthians 4:4).

Light represents the holiness of God (1 John 1:5), who dwells in unapproachable light (1 Timothy 6:16). When we were saved, God made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of His glory displayed in the face of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6).

He Himself is in the light, and believers are called to walk in the light (1 John 1:7). Walking as children of the light means we are to walk in an obedient lifestyle, demonstrating the fruit of the spirit in our actions and interactions with others.

Looks Like ...

A young woman went to her pastor and said, “I can’t stick it out any longer. I’m the only Christian in the factory where I work and I’m getting bullied all the time. It is more than I can stand. I have decided that I’m just going to quit my job.”

The pastor thought for a moment and then asked, “Can you tell me where they put the lights?”

“What does that have to do with anything?” the young woman asked him rather bluntly.

“Just bear with me and answer my question,” the pastor responded kindly. “Where did they put the lights in your factory?”

“I suppose every place where it was dark,” she replied.

“Yes, and that is exactly why God has placed you in that factory where there is such spiritual darkness and no other believer to shine for the Lord,” her pastor said. The young woman realized for the first time the opportunity that was hers. She became convinced that she must not fail in her assignment from God by leaving the place in such darkness. She went back to the factory with renewed determination to let her light shine. During the years she remained at the factory, she was privileged to lead nine other women to the One Who is Light.

Ask Yourself ...

Where in my world is there more light needed? Is there anything I can do differently to light up these places with the love of Jesus?

Questions ...

1. According to Ephesians 5:8, before we were saved, we were _____
but now we are to walk in _____
2. The Bible is clear that light comes from the Lord God, the “Father of _____.”
(James 1:17).
3. To walk as children of light, we must first BE children of light. How and when does
this happen? (Ephesians 2:8) _____

4. Just because we ARE children of light does not guarantee that we are living
that way. In Ephesians 5:8, Paul is essentially saying, “Be what you are! You
are light; now, walk that way!” What are some practical ways believers can
put this into practice?
 - a) When we walk as children of light, we will not ... (Ephesians 5:7) _____

 - b) When we walk as children of light, we will walk in ... (Ephesians 5:9) _____
_____ and _____.
 - c) When we walk as children of light, we will expose _____
and help to lead others to Jesus. (Ephesians 5:12-13).
 - d) When we walk as children of light, we will speak ... (Ephesians 4:15, 25) _____

 - e) When we walk as children of light, we will lead in the way of _____,
along the paths of _____ (Proverbs 8:20).
 - f) When we walk as children of light, we will ... (Matthew 5:16) _____

5. Thankfully, learning to walk as children of light is a process of gradual growth. What are some things we can be doing to facilitate this growth? (*Thought question – answers will vary*).

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

CHAPTER 4

Walk in the Old Paths

Divine Briefing ...

"Thus saith the Lord: stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein" (Jeremiah 6:16).

When the prophet Jeremiah spoke the words in our verse, Jerusalem was being threatened with total destruction. Just like in the world today, the warning signs were all around the people. But Jeremiah said, even though they were in a bad place, there was wisdom available for them in **the old paths**. If they would look to their history and forefathers, they would be reminded about what God had done in and through them before and find peace. But, despite Jeremiah's message from God, Judah rejected the wisdom of the old paths and decided to go their own way.

Looks Like ...

Jeremiah was only about 17 when God called him to ministry. He had great inner turmoil over the fate of his people, and he begged them to listen. He is known as "the weeping prophet," because he cried tears of sadness, not only because he knew what was going to happen, but because no matter how hard he tried, the people would not listen.

In addition, he had no human comfort. God had forbidden him to marry or have children of his own (Jeremiah 16:2), and his friends had turned their backs on him. So, along with the burden of the knowledge of impending judgment, he must have also been very lonely. He lived like this for 40 years.

Jeremiah may have been tempted at some point to leave the old path and make his life easier. But Jeremiah remained on the path where God directed him, and as a result became one of the most unpopular prophets in Jewish history. Measured by human standards, his ministry was a miserable failure, but measured by the will of God, he was a total success.

It wasn't easy for Jeremiah to walk down the old paths alone, resist the crowd, and walk out of step with the philosophies and values of his times – and it still isn't easy today. But we have a choice.

Ask Yourself ...

Are you walking in the old paths? If you're not sure, ask God to reveal the old paths to you. Once He reveals them, commit yourself to walking in them. Make them an everyday practice in your life. If you do so, God states that you will find rest for your soul.

Questions ...

1. Many despise the old paths. Maybe they seem old fashioned or terribly outdated. But Jeremiah said there was life-saving wisdom in the old paths of God's Word and work from days gone by. To get in step with the old paths, what four things did the prophet tell the people to do? (Jeremiah 6:16)

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

2. In Joshua 24:15, Joshua told the people that they had two paths or choices they could take. What were the two choices?

a) _____

b) _____

What did Joshua say he and his family would be doing?

c) _____

God loves you enough to give you a choice. If that choice is the wrong one, God loves you enough to let you make that choice, but it is with a heavy heart. Many have chosen to go the wrong way.

3. A couple hundred years later, on Mount Carmel Elijah went before the people and gave them two choices (1Kings 18:21). What were their options?

a) _____

b) _____

4. Many of us have already stood at the crossroads with two signs, one pointing to Jesus and eternal life and the other pointing toward a path of destruction. Just as in times of past, we must each make our own choice.

In the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus echoed Jeremiah's words with two choices. What were the two possibilities offered in these verses?

a) _____

b) _____

5. Some people try to straddle both roads – with one foot on each path. For example, some have tried to go both ways at the same time in choosing their spouse or business partner. What advice did the apostle Paul give believers regarding this in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18? _____

6. Don't be deceived by the trends of this age. You can't go anywhere you want, think anything you want, say anything you want, watch anything you want, listen to anything you want, or do anything you want, and still be holy. There is a price to pay when you go down the new paths of our current times.

What will be the price? (Jeremiah 6:16) _____

CHAPTER 5

Walk Straight Ahead

Divine Briefing ...

"Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil" (Proverbs 4:26-27).

We are all on a journey right now, and this journey will last for the rest of our lives. It is a journey down a long and dangerous highway, one that is filled with potholes, dangerous curves, fake detour signs, and broken-down guard rails.

To stay on the highway, we must keep our eyes focused straight ahead, our mind set on Christ and His way of righteousness. Guard your eyes and guard your mind. Be careful of the people you hang out with, lest they lead you off the right path.

Looks Like ...

Back in Bible times, plows were simply made, very lightweight, and required great attention to keep them in the ground. One type of Palestinian plough was made up of two wooden beams which were joined together, at the front end hooked to a yoke, and at the rear end fastened to a crosspiece. The upper part served as the handle, and the lower part held the actual iron plow. Two oxen or other animals would be attached to the yoke.

The farmer held one handle of the plow with one of his hands, while he carried a long stick with a pointed end in the other hand, to prod the animals. During the process, the farmer would also have to press down with all his weight on the plow (because it was so light) in order to make the furrows deep enough. If the farmer got distracted and looked to the right, left, or even behind - that row would turn out crooked and the furrows wouldn't be deep enough. Now if he plowed one row incorrectly, a farmer could still do the next row correctly. But a whole field of crooked furrows would indicate that the plowman didn't really care.

We should compare plowing crooked furrows to our personal walk with the Lord. We need to look and walk straight ahead. The Good News Bible says it this way. *"Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don't go one step off the right way."* (Proverbs 4:27) If we are distracted by sin, plowing crooked furrows in our Christian walk, we will not be fit for service in the kingdom of God.

Ask Yourself ...

What would my spiritual walk look like if you could see the furrows left behind me?

Questions ...

1. According to Proverbs 4:26-27, what is the best way to continue walking straight? ____

2. What kind of distractions might cause us to turn off the straight path? _____

3. Hebrews 12:12-13 speaks of readiness to work and serve the Lord. What three things are we told to do in these verses?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

This readiness to serve the Lord is the first to go when a person is distracted by sin or surrenders to discouragement.

4. Read Acts 13:8-10. What type of people pervert the straight ways of the Lord, going down crooked paths?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

Who was Paul, being filled with the Holy Spirit, describing in verse 8.

d) _____

5. In Luke 9:62, Jesus gave us the example of a farmer looking back behind him while plowing. He said, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is

fit for ... _____

In our Christian walk, we must keep our eyes on Jesus and never take our eyes off

Him. If we take our eyes off Him, we will not be fit for ... _____

6. What did John the Baptist say would happen to crooked paths when Jesus came?

(Luke 3:5) _____

7. In Luke 3:5, John the Baptist was actually quoting Isaiah 45:2. Through Isaiah, the Lord was speaking to Cyrus the Great, the anointed king of Persia, the monarch under whom the Babylonian captivity ended. What did the Lord promise to do for him

in verses 2 and 3? _____

8. It is interesting that a "crook" is defined as a criminal, lawbreaker, offender, villain, delinquent, felon, convict, malefactor, culprit, wrongdoer; rogue, scoundrel, shyster, cheat, scam artist, swindler, racketeer, confidence trickster, snake oil salesman; thief, robber, con man, or burglar.

A person who is "crooked" is said to be dishonest, unscrupulous, unprincipled, and untrustworthy. By contrast, the idiom "straight as an arrow" refers to a person who is

9. How would you differentiate between a straight path and a crooked path?

a) A straight path _____

b) On the other hand, a crooked path _____

Which path will you be on?

CHAPTER 6

Walk in Truth

Divine Briefing ...

"For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 1:3-4).

Truth is not defined by our personal preferences or conviction. It is defined by the holy Word of God. And the most important truth in the Bible is found in John 14:6 in which Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

Looks Like ...

There is a popular view that all roads lead to heaven. From the rich and famous to the average person on the street, most will tell you all religions lead to the same place, heaven. But Proverbs 14:12 warns us, *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*

The truth is — not all roads, i.e., religions, are headed in the right direction. And there's no church or denomination that can guarantee a person will enter heaven. The Bible tells us only God can do this, based on our faith in the saving work of His only Son, Jesus Christ. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).*

We're all invited to spend eternity in paradise, but we don't get to choose which road we'll walk down to get there. In John 14:6, Jesus affirms that He is the only way.

John's concern, shared by every pastor today, was that his spiritual children not only acknowledge the truth of the Gospel, but that they also walk in that truth. A genuine believer's walk in truth will be marked by the integrity, humility, and generosity of the new life lived in response to God's love, grace, and mercy.

Ask Yourself ...

Are you on the right road? Are you walking in truth?

Questions ...

1. In 2 John 1:4, it brought John great joy to know that those whom he had previously taught were _____
2. How did John know his spiritual children were walking in truth? (3 John 1:3-4)

3. In Galatians 2:5, the doctrine of Jesus Christ is called the _____

4. When we know the truth, and are walking in the truth, what will be the result? (John 8:32) _____
5. In Psalm 26:1-3, with an honest heart, David pleaded for God to “examine” him - put him under the divine microscope, so to speak. He didn't claim to be perfect, but he did contend that he walked in ...
 - a) _____ (vs. 1) and
 - b) _____ (vs. 3)

Because of his walk, he was asking for God's protection from some threatening force.

6. In Psalm 86:11, David asked to be taught so he could _____

7. In 1 Kings 2:1-4, David knew he would soon die, and so he gave his final instructions to Solomon. Previously, God had promised David that as long as his sons did certain things, they would keep the throne of Israel, and here he reminded Solomon of these things. What did God require?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____

8. In 2 Timothy 2:24-26, Paul specifically told Timothy how to correct those who opposed the gospel and were not walking in truth. What was to be his attitude as he taught them?

a) _____

Anyone opposed to the gospel is deceived. But what did Paul say could be the result if they would only listen to Timothy's gentle admonition?

b) _____

c) _____

CHAPTER 7

Walk in Integrity

Divine Briefing ...

The NIV version of Proverbs 10:9 says, *"Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out."* The dictionary defines integrity as the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.

Integrity is making our daily actions line up with what we know is right, whether someone is watching us or not. When we walk with integrity, we have God's protection. We don't have to look over our shoulders all of the time, to be sure we're not caught doing something wrong

Looks Like ...

The Daily Herald in Chicago ran this story on February 20, 1996. A newlywed couple had left a black zippered case on the roof of their car as they sped away from the reception to begin their honeymoon. The case had all their wedding gift money in it - \$12,000. By the time they reached their destination it was gone.

Two days later the same newspaper carried the following headline: "Finders Keepers? Not All Believe It!" David Yi, an unemployed suburban resident, had come upon a black bag with \$12,000 in cash. In spite of his mounting bills and jobless state, he didn't keep the money. Tracking the couple down, he returned the full amount. When asked why he returned all the money, he said, "I guess it didn't matter whether it was \$50 or \$1,000 or \$1 million - it didn't belong to me."

When offered jobs because of the exposure he received, Yi said he would only consider jobs for which he was actually qualified. He felt accepting a managerial position for which he was unequipped would be dishonest.

Believers are often accused of being hypocrites, because they don't walk their talk, i.e., they aren't walking in integrity. We must all examine ourselves, to be sure we don't cause anyone to stumble because our actions don't match our profession of faith. (Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 8:13; 1 Corinthians 10:32).

Ask Yourself ...

Would the above scenario be a temptation for you? In what type of situation would you be most tempted to compromise your integrity?

Questions ...

1. How are those who walk in integrity compared to those who do not? (Proverbs 10:9)

2. A poor man who walks in integrity is better than ... (Proverbs 19:1)

a) Proverbs 19:1: _____

b) Proverbs 28:6: _____

3. The integrity of the upright will _____ them, but the perverseness of transgressors shall _____ them. (Proverbs 11:3)

4. Where should integrity first be found? (Psalm 101:2) _____

5. If Solomon walked before God with integrity of heart, what could he expect? (1 Kings 9:4-5) _____

6. What does Proverbs 20:7 teach about a man of integrity and his children? _____

7. What was the blessing on David's life in Psalm 41:11-12, because the Lord saw his integrity? _____

8. We have all read the story of Job, and how God allowed Satan to test him.

a) In Job 2:7, what method of affliction did Satan use next on Job? _____

b) What did Job's wife say he should do? (Job 2:9) _____

c) How had Job been proving his integrity and faithfulness to God, throughout all the tests Satan threw at him? (Job 1:22) _____

9. What does "compromising your principles" mean? Give an example. _____

10. Jesus told us to count the cost when looking to follow Him. What can happen when we are willing to walk in integrity, no matter what the cost? (*Thought question - answers will vary.*) _____

CHAPTER 8

Walk Circumspectly, Redeeming the Time

Divine Briefing ...

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16).

The Message translates these verses as "So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times."

The Greek word for "time" in this verse is *kairos*. That isn't referring to time as in, "What time is it?" It speaks of a point in time that is eventually going to slip away. For example, it could be used in the phrase "harvest time." *Kairos* is the time where you better get moving. Those crops aren't going to harvest themselves. It is the appointed time, the proper time, the slice of time where you have an opportunity – but that *kairos* is going to eventually slip away.

Paul isn't just telling us to make the most of every moment in every day, although that is certainly good advice. He is telling us to make the most of the time we have left on earth, because time is running out and we need to share the good news of the Gospel with everyone we can.

Looks Like ...

One of the most sought-after but elusive things we seek today is "time." Hollywood focused on this dilemma in a comedy about a harried man who is cloned so he could fulfill his roles as father, construction foreman, and husband. We believe we can juggle multiple roles if we just manage our time well enough, but in trying to fulfill all our obligations to family and job, sometimes we leave out God.

Did you ever wonder how adults spend their time? One study showed how 18-64 year-olds spend their minutes each day. Included were ... sleeping, working, watching TV, housework, travel, eating, socializing, recreation, childcare, dressing, washing, reading, relaxing, etc.

Significantly - worship and devotional activities did not even appear in the study.

Ask Yourself ...

Do I waste time doing things that bring me pleasure, but do not bring Him honor?

Questions ...

1. The older we get, the more we think about using our time wisely in light of eternity. We try to evaluate what really matters. Moses must have been feeling this when he prayed the words recorded in Psalm 90.

a) How did Moses spend his first 40 years? (Exodus 2:1-15) _____

b) How did Moses spend his next 40 years? (Exodus 2:11 – 7:7) _____

c) How did Moses spend the final 40 years of his life? (Exodus 7:8-13 to Deuteronomy 34:12) _____

2. Jesus lived to accomplish the Father's purpose and knew that He had done so as His short life neared the end (John 17:4). What are some of the things He accomplished during His 3 short years of ministry? (*Thought questions – answers will vary.*)

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

3. The apostle Paul was also a man of godly purpose. He lived to exalt Christ and to know Him. At the end of his life, as he faced execution, Paul knew that he had ... (2 Timothy 4:7)

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

4. What did Paul know would be his reward, for making every moment count in serving His Lord and Savior? _____

5. Read Ephesians 5:16 again, and then read Colossians 4:5.
- a) What phrase is the same in both verses? _____

- b) Why did Paul say are to make the most of every minute? _____

6. To redeem the time, we must know what God wants us to be and what He wants us to do. What are some ways we can use our time for His glory? (*Thought questions – answers will vary.*)
- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

CHAPTER 9

Walk in Fellowship

Divine Briefing ...

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

Just before this verse, in 1 John 1:5, we read that our God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. Then in 1 John 1:7, walking in light is tied to walking in fellowship with one another. In other words, to walk in fellowship with other believers - we need to be walking in the light. In we're not walking in the light, we are probably hanging out with the wrong people.

Looks Like ...

When I was growing up, we always had a canary and every canary we owned was named Dickie. We loved to hear our canaries sing. It was my job to feed Dickie every day and, after I cleaned his cage on Saturdays, I would sit for a while and listen to him sing.

However, Dickie never knew when to stop singing. If we let him, he'd stay awake and sing all night. If we wanted a little peace and quiet, or if we wanted to watch TV, we had to cover his cage with a heavy cloth and block out any light. We have no idea if Dickie went to sleep or not when he was covered, but at least he finally stopped singing.

In Matthew 5:15, Jesus said we are to leave our light uncovered – even put it up high on a lampstand. We are to be *intentional* about letting our light shine. And, just as the higher you place a lamp ... the farther the light shines, we should always be looking for ways to let our light shine in greater and broader ways.

Too many believers have covered their light and hid it under a basket. Instead of walking in fellowship with other believers, they are more comfortable having fellowship with people who are not walking in the light. We need to spend time with friends who are not just talking the talk, but also walking the walk in the light.

Ask Yourself ...

Who do you call when you need someone to talk to, or if you want to spend time with a friend? What kinds of things do you like to do together? Are your friends walking in the light? Do you walk in Christian fellowship together?

Questions ...

1. Philippians 1:3-8 shares what walking in true Christian fellowship looks like. There are five strands to this type of fellowship.
 - a) Though Paul was in jail and couldn't be with the them, his chains didn't stop him from ... (vs. 3-4) _____
 - b) From day one, the Philippians had joined Paul in the cause of the ... (vs. 5) _____
 - c) With this kind of fellowship, I can accept a believer whatever he's at in his Christian growth, and encourage him in any areas of weakness. Likewise, he can help and encourage me with my own failings. Together we can be confident that this good work that was begun in us will ... (vs. 6) _____
 - d) Every true believer is a partaker of ... (vs. 7) _____
 - e) When we walk in the light, believers are united in fellowship, not just intellectually, but ... (vs. 8) _____
2. What kinds of things did the early Christians do when they got together for fellowship?
 - a) Acts 1:14: _____
 - b) Acts 2:42: _____
 - c) Romans 12:13: _____
 - d) 1 Corinthians 14:26: _____
 - e) Ephesians 5:19: _____
 - f) 1 Thessalonians 5:11: _____
3. There are going to be believers who irritate us, with whom we don't really enjoy spending time. How do we walk in fellowship with a brother or sister in Christ whom we just can't stand being around? (Ephesians 4:2-3) _____

4. True believers will have fellowship, not only with each other, but also _____
_____ (1 John 1:3)

5. How can we do a better job of including new believers who may need to abandon some of their old friends and hangouts, and start walking in fellowship with us?

(Thought question – answers will vary.) _____

CHAPTER 10

Walking and Praising God

Divine Briefing ...

"And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God" (Acts 3:8-9).

This man had been lame since his birth, and he was now over 40 years old (Acts 4:22). He had to be carried to "work" every day at the temple gate so he could beg for a living. He was a familiar sight at the temple, so everyone in town was aware of his condition since he had begged from that spot for so many years.

The minute he was healed, he went immediately from sitting or lying down all day on the temple steps to walking, running, leaping, and praising God. There was no way to stop this man from jumping up and down and shouting praises to God. And as he ran around sharing his good news and praising God, he gathered a crowd of people from town who were totally stunned by the amazing report and started praising God along with him.

Looks Like ...

We can read about miracles that have happened around the world, or listen to a testimony on a Christian TV program, and we may get goose bumps and quietly praise the Lord. But those stories don't have the same impact on our hearts as when we personally know the person for whom God has reached out and done a miracle.

The Bible doesn't say, but I imagine that man never stopped telling the story about his miracle for the rest of his life. His walk became a walk of praise. He told his story primarily to the people who had known him since childhood, people who had put money in his cup, people who had supported him over the years as well as people who may have ignored him as they entered the temple.

Likewise our walk should be a walk of praise. We should tell our story, share our testimony with people we know, and tell what the Lord has done for us every time we get an opening. Our testimony has the ability to lead the unsaved to Christ, to stir believers up, and to strengthen them in their faith.

Ask Yourself ...

When was the last time you shared your story about something wonderful the Lord has done for you? Is your walk a walk of praising or a walk of whining?

Questions ...

1. In Acts 3:1-8, what was the first thing the man did after he was healed? _____

2. What else did he do, and probably continued doing for the rest of his life? _____

3. Another person who probably never stopped telling her story was the woman at the well. Read John 4.
 - a) What did Jesus use as a natural point of contact with the woman at the well? ____

 - b) How did the Samaritan woman know Jesus was a Jew? (*Thought question*) ____

 - c) Jesus drew the woman into conversation, making her curious about the things of God, about who Jesus is, and what He could give her. What did she ask Him to give her and why? (vs. 15) _____

 - d) The Samaritans believed that Moses commissioned an altar on Mount Gerazim, the mountain of blessing - this was their justification for their system of worship on that mountain. But like all faiths that try to combine elements of different religions, they worshipped ... (vs. 22)
 - e) What did Jesus say to the woman that convinced her He was the Messiah? (vs. 26 & 29) _____

 - f) What did the woman leave behind, in her hurry to go share her story with the people in town? _____
 - g) The woman was a sinner, and everyone in town knew it. I imagine many self-righteous folks crossed to the other side of the street if they saw her coming. Did the woman let that stop her from telling everyone about Jesus? ____ Yes ____ No

h) Too many hesitate to tell their own praise story about their relationship with the Lord - some because they are shy or intimidated, others because they want to avoid offending others. What can we learn from the woman at the well? _____

4. What have all been believers instructed to do? (vs. 19-20)

a) _____ (v. 19a)

b) _____ (v. 19b)

c) _____ (v. 19c)

d) _____ (v. 20a)

5. Would you share a testimony right now about something wonderful God has done for you (in addition to your salvation)? _____

CHAPTER 11

Walk by Faith, Not by Sight

Divine Briefing ...

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

To walk by faith, and not by sight, is one of the greatest yet most difficult principles of Christian living. Just as our physical eyesight is the sense that gives us evidence of the material world, **faith** is the "sense" that gives us evidence of the invisible, spiritual world.

- To walk by faith is to recognize these unseen spiritual things as reality.
- To walk by faith is to make choices with eternal consequences and rewards in mind.
- To walk by faith is to walk in obedience.
- To walk by faith is to trust God with every step you take.

Looks Like ...

Imagine yourself driving down a dark and winding road you have never been down before – and it is pouring down rain. Your windshield wipers are going at full speed, but they barely keep up. You squint, trying to clear up your blurry view.

Every now and then, lightning strikes and you can see a little farther down the road. But when a car comes toward you, the lights blind you, and you blink furiously - trying to figure out where the road went. After the car passes, you can see again, but only as far as your headlights and not very well at that.

Walking by faith is like this. We set our goals and make our plans, but then the storms of life come along. Walking by faith requires that we keep moving forward when our own plans get messed up, trusting that God has a better plan for us. *"A man's heart deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth his steps"* (Proverbs 16:9).

At times we won't be able to see where to put our foot to take the next step. But we continue in faith because we trust that God is always leading us in the right direction.

Ask Yourself ...

Have you ever allowed the trial (test) you're going through or your emotions to steal your confidence in God's promises?

Questions ...

1. Define faith, using Hebrews 11:1. _____

2. The disciple Peter is a great example of a person walked first by faith, but then got fearful and switched over to walking by sight instead. Read Matthew 14:22-33.
 - a) What happened to the disciples after they boarded the boat and went to sea? (vs. 24) _____

 - b) What did Peter want Jesus to command him to do? (vs. 28) _____

 - c) What caused Peter to sink in the water? (vs. 30) _____

 - d) Have you ever wondered why some of the other disciples in the boat didn't try to walk on the water too? What might have been reasons (excuses) they used? (*Thought question*) _____

 - e) Some have said Peter only got out of the boat to show off and prove to the others that his faith was greater than theirs. I think he got out because he wanted to be closer to Jesus. What happens when we try to draw closer to God? (James 4:8)

3. Walking by faith and not by sight may require that you go in obedience to places you've never been before, and do things you've never done before. Abraham certainly stands out as a giant of faith in this regard.
 - a) What did God ask Abraham to do in Genesis 12:1?

 - b) Did Abraham know the exact destination before he started? ___ Yes ___ No

 - c) In Genesis 22, how did Abraham prove that he was willing to walk by faith, and not by sight? _____

4. Here's a practical example. Let's say you were given \$1,000 and had to decide what to do with it. (*Thought question – answers will vary.*)

a) The world would say that it is totally acceptable to _____

b) A person walking by faith, and not by sight, might choose to _____

5. Probably one of the most difficult hurdles for some in walking by faith regards our salvation. We don't get a certificate of graduation when we're saved, and there isn't a checklist of good works we can mark off to earn our way into heaven. We are simply saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Read Romans 5:1-2. What might be an internal, invisible faith signal that we are indeed saved. _____

6. Share a time when you chose to obey God and walk by faith, without a clear vision of where He was leading you. _____

CHAPTER 12

Walk Worthy of the Lord

Divine Briefing ...

"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:10).

To walk "worthy of the Lord" means to live our life in such a way that we are worthy of being identified with the Lord Jesus Christ. It is to live a life consistent with God's revealed Word. We are to walk in an "all pleasing" way, a way that pleases God in all respects.

Hebrews 11:6 says, *"Without faith it is impossible to please Him."* The call to walk worthy of the Lord is at the very least a call to walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7), so others can see how our faith guides our walk.

As we walk worthy of the Lord, our lives will bear fruit and good works. We should be standing by, ready to serve the Lord at any time, in whatever way is needed, with the words of Isaiah resounding in our hearts, *"Here am I. Send me"* (Isaiah 6:8).

Finally, to walk worthy of the Lord is to walk in obedience, making choices and decisions that reflect God's heart. The only way to do this successfully is to dig deeper into the Word, increasing our knowledge of Who God is and what He desires.

Looks Like ...

There is a "signature conduct" that the world should see in every true believer who is walking worthy of the Lord.

When my husband and I had our restaurant, there was an employee whom we really loved - but we had to fire him several times for either missing work or showing up totally drunk. FINALLY, when we fired him for the 5th time, Mike sat down with Billy and shared the gospel message (again). He told Billy how much we love him and how much Jesus loves him. Mike's heart broke as he watched Billy leave that last time - shuffling home alone in the dark on foot.

About two years later, Billy called and said, "Do you remember me?" Are you kidding? Of course, we had been wondering where he was. Well, Billy said he had just gotten out of prison for drug and alcohol use, and he was in a program at a half-way house in Houston. He said that he met Jesus in prison and wanted to know if we would hire him again. I told him when he was finished with his program to come see us.

About six months later, Billy walked into the restaurant. Mike sat down and visited with him, and decided to offer him a job again. But the only job we had available was for a waiter. So Billy started working right up front, serving the customers. Every time a customer entered the restaurant, he would rush to the front, greet them, and help them find a table. He was always smiling, always up, always sober.

By this time, our regular customers were saying, "Is that ol' Billy Smith?" I don't even recognize him! Last time I saw him, he was knocking on my door at midnight, asking for money." I would just smile and say, "Yes, that's Billy. He's a new creation in Christ now."

Before Billy was saved, his conduct matched the world's standards. After Billy gave his life to Christ, he exemplified that "signature conduct" that naturally comes when you walk worthy of the Lord.

Ask Yourself ...

Is my walk worthy of the Lord, or is my walk giving a Christianity a bad reputation?

Questions ...

1. Doing good works doesn't simply imply we are to stay busy doing "good deeds." Even the unsaved do good deeds for their fellow man. Search the following scriptures to see what else "good works" includes for the believer.

What are some of the things we will do when we walk worthy of the Lord?

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____

2. Good works are to be our witness to the unsaved. What two areas are mentioned in 1 Peter 2:11-12 about which we should be careful, as failing in these could ruin our testimony to unbelievers?

- a) _____
- b) _____

3. In Titus 2:7, the Apostle Paul told Titus he needed to be more than a teacher. He also had to _____

His guidance to others would not be taken seriously if he himself was not walking worthy of the Lord.

4. Good works are the means by which we minister to the _____ of our fellow believers. (Titus 3:14)

5. Good works are an integral part of God's eternal plan, and therefore they are our highest responsibility. In addition, our good works are actually evidence that ...

(Ephesians 2:10) _____

6. We are not to do our good works reluctantly. Instead, what should be our attitude?

(Titus 2:14) _____

7. We begin our walk with the Lord with faith. But as we increase in our knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10), our faith progresses into ... (2 Peter 1:5-8)

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a) _____ | e) _____ |
| b) _____ | f) _____ |
| c) _____ | g) _____ |
| d) _____ | |

8. Ephesians 5:2 tells us that our walk in the Lord, our good works in Christ, are the

_____ of a sacrificial love-offering to God.

9. What should happen when men see our good works? (Matthew 5:16) _____

CHAPTER 13

Walk Humbly with God

Divine Briefing ...

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8)

Humility has gotten a pretty bad reputation in recent years. Too many people think it's a synonym for low self-esteem. But humility is actually a clear recognition of the hard truth about who and what we really are, and who and what God is. When we see the greatness of God and measure ourselves by it, humility is the only possible response.

There have been some who didn't see it that way – starting with Lucifer. Lucifer became so impressed with his own beauty, his own intelligence, his own power, and his own position that he began to covet for himself the honor and glory that belongs to God alone. Instead of walking humbly with God, the sin that brought Lucifer down was self-generated pride. (Ezekiel 28)

God demands our worship because He and He alone is worthy of it. Revelation 4:11 says, *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created."*

In addition, God asks us to humble ourselves before him because He loves us and wants to take care of us. 1 Peter 5:6-7 says, *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."* As we walk humbly with God, we can trust Him with every area of our lives.

Looks Like ...

Jim Jones is one the most notorious persons of recent times who did not walk humbly with God, but rather claimed to be God, and instructed his followers to honor him as their god. He was the self-proclaimed Messiah of the Peoples Temple, and built up the cult by promising utopia to those who followed him.

On November 18, 1978, in what became known as the Jonestown Massacre, more than 900 men, women, and children died in a mass suicide by drinking cyanide-laced Kool-Aid at his direction. They were aware of what they were doing, had even practiced doing this on another occasion, and were still willing to obey their leader, their god. Jones himself did not drink the punch, but later died of a single, self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Ask Yourself ...

How are you responding to your challenges? Are you trusting God with them, or do you try to handle everything on your own? If you carry the world on your own shoulders, there could be an issue of self-sufficiency based in pride vs. humility before God.

Questions ...

Humility before God is not complete unless we are also humble before man. If we are humble before God, our humility will become evident in our interactions with others as well. But I don't think humility comes naturally. It has to be learned and practiced. Within the following questions are suggestions regarding ways to further develop our humility.

1. All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. However, too few of us have a routine practice of rigorous self-honesty examination. Read Luke 18:9-14 and compare the Pharisee and the publican. Which one demonstrated humility before God? _____
2. Humility before God is not complete unless there is also humility before man. A true test of our willingness to humble ourselves is willingness to ... (James 5:16) _____

3. Our culture does not value submission. Instead it promotes individualism. But 1 Peter 2:18 tells us to _____

4. Instead of asking to be seated at the head table where we can be recognized or honored, the Lord advises that we ... (Proverbs 25:6-7) _____

5. When we serve others, we are ministering God's purposes in their lives. What did Paul and Timotheus call themselves? (Philippians 1:1) _____

6. Forgiveness is possibly one of the greatest acts of humility we can do. To forgive is to acknowledge that a wrong that has been done us but we are willing to let it go. How often did the Lord tell Peter we should forgive? (Matthew 18:21-22) _____
7. Saying negative things about other people puts them down and ourselves up. In what way are we instructed to speak of others in Ephesians 4:31-32? _____

8. When something is done to a person that is unjust or unfair, or someone tells a lie about another person, what is the first thing most people want to do? _____

Instead, according to 1 Peter 3:8-17, what should we do? _____

9. There was a pastor who was known for graciously receiving any negative feedback or correction offered brought to him after his sermon on Sunday. He would say, "Thank you for caring enough to share that with me. I will pray about it and get back to you." What was he doing that showed not only his humility before God, but also humility before man? (Proverbs 10:17 and 12:1) _____

10. Our culture is very status conscious and people seem to try to socialize upward. But Jesus did just the opposite. With whom did He often socialize? (Luke 7:36-39) _____

11. It's human nature to be proud, but it is God's nature within us that brings humility. To what type of lifestyle do we need to commit in order to build a foundation for true humility? (Luke 9:23) _____

12. Without humility before God, salvation is impossible. Why? (Ephesians 2:8-9) _____

CHAPTER 14

Walk in Newness of Life

Divine Briefing ...

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

Water baptism represents the believer’s identification with Jesus in His death and resurrection. Being immersed under the water represents the death of the "old man" with his old sinful way of life. Going under the water is also a picture of being **buried with Jesus**. Then coming up from the water is a picture of rising from the dead as a new creation in Christ in newness of life.

When Jesus was resurrected, God did not bring Him back to more of His same life, as when Elijah revived the widow’s son (1 Kings 17:17-24) or when Jesus resuscitated his friend, Lazarus (John 11). Rather, God raised Jesus from the dead to a brand new life.

Likewise, when we walk in newness of life, things will be different. We won’t do the same sinful things we did before, we probably won’t hang out at the same places we used to enjoy, and we should be doing new things as we serve the Kingdom with our gifts and talents.

Looks Like ...

My first husband was a pastor. We had gone through seminary together, and were just getting started in what I expected to be a life of ministry together. But then he did the unthinkable – he decided to leave the ministry and his family to marry my best friend.

I took care of the kids and prayed for a godly man for five years, and God answered my prayers with a sweet man I call my “treasure of darkness” (Isaiah 45:3). When we got married everything became new. We started a new career (as we bought a restaurant the day after our wedding), we moved to a new city, we joined a new church, and our children had new siblings with whom they could fight.

We had both been “dumped” by our spouses, so we both made an intentional commitment to “bury” hurt feelings and “bury” any remaining anger or bitterness. That let the door open wide for joy again, and we are still walking with joy in the newness of our life together - 32 years later. Likewise, when we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and bury the “old man”, we begin to walk with joy in the newness of our life with Him, and that joy will last for eternity.

Ask Yourself ...

Is there anything in my past that is blocking joy from my walk in the newness of life with Christ? Is there anything remaining that needs to be buried? *“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts” (Psalm 139:23).*

Questions ...

1. According to Romans 6:4, what happens at baptism? _____

2. In 1 Peter 3:21, Peter was careful to point out that it isn't the actual water of baptism that saves us. What actually saves us? _____

3. Baptism illustrates our identification with the death and resurrection life of Jesus. We are symbolically buried with Jesus when we go under the water. We are also _____
_____ (Colossians 2:12)
4. Read Mark 16:16. What was Jesus really saying in this verse?
 - a) ___ Sinners must be baptized to be saved.
 - b) ___ Sinners must be baptized and believe to be saved.
 - c) ___ Sinners must believe to be saved.
 - d) ___ None of the above.
5. Galatians 2:20 approaches the same concept as Romans 6:4, but with different wording. After we have died with Christ on the cross, what will be the result? _____

6. How does 2 Corinthians 5:17 describe the new life in Christ? _____

7. How will our walk be different when we are walking in newness of life with Christ?
 - a) Romans 6:6-7: _____
 - b) Romans 6:8-9: _____
 - c) Romans 6:18: _____

8. Based on your reading of Romans 6, select the correct statement.
- a) ____ When we walk in newness of life, we die to the old life and the power of sin over our lives is broken.
 - b) ____ When we walk in newness of life, we don't have to succumb to temptation. We have the God-given ability to resist sin.
 - c) ____ When we walk in newness of life, we sin less and and obey God more and more as we grow in our relationship with Him.
 - d) ____ All of the above
9. What are some habits a person might want to "bury" when he/she begins to walk in newness of life? (*Thought question - answers will vary.*) _____
- _____
- _____

CHAPTER 15

Walk Uprightly

Divine Briefing ...

“He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly” (Proverbs 2:7).

This is an age dominated by fear. Some people install elaborate and expensive security systems to guard their home, their office, and their cars – because of fear of an intruder. Others fear death, sickness, abandonment, failure, financial disaster, or the problems that come with aging.

But we don't need to live our lives in fear, because God has promised protection to those who walk uprightly. He has assured us several times in His Word that He will be our “buckler.” The term “buckler” refers to a shield but, in this context, it isn't just the small one carried over the arm to protect your heart (as in 2 Samuel 22:31 and 1 Chronicles 5:18).

In Proverbs 2:7, the buckler refers to a large shield that surrounds and protects the entire body. God's protective shield has those who walk in obedience covered from head to toe, in every area of their lives. And not only will God protect the godly man during his life on earth, walking uprightly also brings the confidence that we will be safe on the Day of Judgment (Matthew 7:21-23; 2 Peter 1:5-11).

Looks Like ...

In the book “The Day America Told the Truth” (1991), the authors (James Patterson & Peter Kim) related the stunning results of a question which was asked of Americans. The question was simply this: “What would you be willing to do for \$10 million?” Two-thirds of those polled said they would do at least one of the following ... some said they would do several of the following:

- Would abandon their entire family (25%)
- Would abandon their church (25%)
- Would be a prostitute for a week or more (23%)
- Would give up their American citizenships (16%)
- Would leave their spouses (16%)
- Would withhold testimony and let a murderer go free (10%)
- Would kill a stranger (7%)
- Would put their children up for adoption (3%)

Why would people do such things? Greed would obviously be a factor. But there's another that tops that – the glaring failure of many to walk uprightly in this day and age.

Walking uprightly is a matter of choice. Our first choice must be to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. By grace through faith, Jesus' death on the cross and His finished work makes us righteous, enabling us to walk uprightly. Flowing from that first choice, as we grow in our faith and knowledge of God's ways, our choices and decisions will line up more and more with the Word of God and His protection will surround us.

Ask Yourself ...

Do my choices keep me safely behind God's buckler of protection, or do I step outside His safety zone from time to time?

Questions ...

1. The following verses highlight the fact that God is our buckler, standing by to protect those who walk uprightly.

a) In Proverbs 2:7, what two things did God promise to those who walk uprightly?

i) _____

ii) _____

b) In Psalm 84:11, what three things did God promise to those who walk uprightly?

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

c) In Psalm 91:4, what two pictures did God use to describe His protection?

i) _____

ii) _____

d) In Psalm 35:1-2, what was David asking the Lord to do?

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

e) For what other type of person has the Lord promised to be a buckler? (Psalm 18:30) _____

2. Psalm 119:1-3 gives a good description of what it looks like to walk uprightly. What does the person who walks uprightly do (or not do)?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

3. Describe what it might look like to walk uprightly in today's world. _____

CHAPTER 16

Walk in Him, Christ Jesus the Lord

Divine Briefing ...

“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:6-7).

On the faith side, the Colossians had received Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior. But now, on the practical side, they needed to learn to walk by faith in His power. The verb Paul used here indicates continuous action. We are always to continue to walking in Him.

Looks Like ...

As we strive to walk in Him, we need to get to know Him better. Jesus is represented in every book of the Bible, and as we read the Word – we will learn more and more about Him.

- In Genesis, He is the seed of woman.
- In Exodus, He is the Passover Lamb.
- In Leviticus, He is Our High Priest.
- In Numbers, He is the Cloud by day and a Pillar of Fire by night.
- In Deuteronomy, He is the Prophet like unto Moses.
- In Joshua, He is the Captain of our Salvation.
- In Judges, He is our Judge and Law giver.
- In Ruth, He is our Kinsman and Redeemer.
- In 1 & 2 Samuel, He is our Trusted Prophet.
- In 1 & 2 Kings, He is the Lord our King.
- In 1 & 2 Chronicles, He is our Reigning King.
- In Ezra, He is our Faithful Spouse.
- In Nehemiah, He is the Builder of broken down walls.
- In Esther, He is our Mordecai.
- In Job, He is our Redeemer.
- In Psalms, He is the Lord our Shepherd.
- In Proverbs, He is our Wisdom.
- In Ecclesiastes, He is our Lover.
- In the Song of Solomon, He is our Beloved Fair One.
- In Isaiah, He is the Prince of Peace.
- In Jeremiah, He is the Balm of Gilead.
- In Lamentations, He is the weeping Prophet.
- In Ezekiel, He is the wonderful four-faced Man.
- In Daniel, He is the fourth man in the fiery furnace.

- In Hosea, He is the faithful Husband.
- In Joel, He is the Holy Ghost Baptizer.
- In Amos, He is the Burden Bearer.
- In Obadiah, He is Mighty to Save.
- In Jonah, He is our foreign Missionary.
- In Micah, He is the Messenger with beautiful feet.
- In Nahum, He is the Avenger of God's elect.
- In Habakkuk, He is God's Evangelist.
- In Zephaniah, He is Our Savior.
- In Haggai, He is the Restorer of God's Lost Heritage.
- In Zechariah, He is the Fountain Open in the house of David.
- In Malachi, He is the Son of Righteousness with Healing in His Wings.
- In Matthew, He is the Messiah.
- In Mark, He is the Wonder Worker.
- In Luke, He is the Son of Man.
- In John, He is the Son of God. He is the Word.
- In Acts, He is the Foundation of the Church.
- In Romans, He is our Justifier.
- In 1 & 2 Corinthians, He is our Sanctifier.
- In Galatians, He is the Redeemer from the curse of the law.
- In Ephesians, He is the Christ with unsearchable riches.
- In Philippians, He is the God that supplies all of our needs.
- In Colossians, He is the Fullness of the Godhead Bodily.
- In 1 & 2 Thessalonians, He is our Soon Coming King.
- In 1 & 2 Timothy, He is the Mediator between God and man.
- In Titus, He is the Faithful Pastor.
- In Philemon, He is the Friend that sticks closer than a brother.
- In Hebrews, He is the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant.
- In James, He is our Great Physician.
- In 1 & 2 Peter, He is the Chief Shepherd.
- In 1, 2 & 3 John, He is Love.
- In Jude, He is The Lord coming with 10,000 of His saints.
- In Revelations, He is the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Ask Yourself ...

Am I trying to walk in Him relying on my own power and strength, or do I walk by faith in His power?

Questions ...

When we “walk in Him”, we’re not doing a casual, window-shopping style of stroll. I think it should be similar to power walking, but without relying on our own power and strength to accomplish things in the Kingdom. We will successfully walk in Him when the power of the Holy Spirit is operating through us so we can fully accomplish the tasks and assignments that God will be calling us to do for Him in this life.

1. Answer the following questions about the metaphors the Apostle Paul used in Colossians 2:6-7.

a) First Paul reminds his readers that since they received Jesus by faith, so too they must _____ by faith in His power.

b) In the agricultural metaphor, just as a tree is “rooted,” we are to be grounded in the soil of God’s Word. This image most likely comes from the beautiful picture in Jeremiah 17:8. What happens when a tree is planted by water? _____

c) When we are rooted in a relationship with Christ, we will have everything we need for _____ (2 Peter 1:3)

d) Ephesians 2:20 tells us that at conversion we were built on the foundation of _____ with Christ Jesus Himself as the _____.

Paul used the construction image in our verse to illustrate that even though our foundation is built on Christ, we must continue to build and add on - so that we’re continually “being built up in him.”

e) The next metaphor compares believers to students. We’re to continue to study and learn more about God, so that our faith is _____

f) As we receive instruction in Biblical truth, it should produce inner joy. The more we understand grace, the more gratitude we will have. Paul used the word “abounding” to give the mental picture of a river bursting over its banks, overflowing with _____

In other words, Colossians 2:6-7 challenges us to ...

- Grow downward by being “rooted”
- Grow upward by being “built up”
- Grow inward so that we can be “strengthened in the faith”
- Grow outward as we “overflow with thankfulness”.

2. In order to move about the hill country of Galilee, Jesus *walked*. To make the customary three trips to Jerusalem each year to keep the Holy Days of Passover, Pentecost, and the fall festivals (Leviticus 23 and Luke 2:41-42), Jesus would have walked about 150 miles round-trip for each occasion. Just to keep the Holy Days, Jesus would have walked in excess of 450 miles each year. When you consider that He probably walked at least a mile or more every day during the rest of the year, Jesus could have easily walked more than 1,000 miles every year.

When the apostle Paul said we are to walk in Him, he meant ...

- a) _____ We should walk at least 2.5 miles a day, so we will have walked about 1,000 miles every year just like Jesus.
- b) _____ A Christ-like life is one of study, prayer, meditation and contemplation – and so going for long walks isn’t actually the best use of our time. To walk in Him, it would be more beneficial to spend our leisure time reading the Bible instead.
- c) _____ Jesus lived a physically active life *as an example* for us to follow. As we walk in Him, we should strive to be both physically and spiritually healthy – by taking care of our bodies (the temples of the Holy Spirit – 1 Cor. 6:19) and by study so we are always prepared to correctly handle the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15).
- d) _____ All of the Above

3. Who and/or what is Jesus in of these books of the Bible?

- a) Philippians: _____
- b) Psalms: _____
- c) Revelations: _____
- d) Acts: _____
- e) Proverbs: _____
- f) Matthew: _____

CHAPTER 17

Walk Honestly

Divine Briefing ...

"Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying" (Romans 13:13).

The King James Version translates the way we should walk as "honestly" here, but other translations use the words "seemingly" or "becomingly." In 1 Corinthians 14:40, this same word is translated "decently." *"Let all things be done decently and in order."* In both verses, Paul emphasized the importance of a believer's walk.

The phrase "as in the day" highlights the importance of behaving as if all our actions will be seen by someone. People tend to live decently during the daytime, when everything they do is out in the open. Dishonest and wicked deeds are often done at night after dark.

The Apostle Paul, a man of honesty, said, *"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway"* (1 Corinthians 9:27). Paul knew he would disqualify himself for ministry if he did not walk decently and honestly at all times.

If someone asks you to do something that is underhanded or sneaky, walk away. If you think about lying or doing something that is not right, rethink it. You never know who is watching. People who are not yet saved are more inclined to watch what we do than what we say.

Looks Like ...

Four students arrived late to take a test. "And what is your excuse?" inquired the teacher.

"We had a flat tire," they all said in unison.

Without getting upset, the teacher asked the students to take their seats. "The test is just one question," said the teacher. "Which tire went flat?"

Do you think all the students gave the same answer? Unfortunately, lying comes quite easily for many people. That is why the writer of Proverbs wrote, *"The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment"* (Proverbs 12:19).

The book *The Day America Told the Truth* gives some interesting statistics about the Americans' habit of lying. Those who were surveyed admitted ...

- 91 percent lie routinely about trivial things.
- 36 percent lie about important matters.
- 86 percent lie regularly to parents.

- 75 percent lie to friends.
- 73 percent lie to siblings.
- 69 percent lie to spouses.
- 32 percent believe that lying is often necessary.

Ask Yourself ...

God is looking for people He can trust, people who will be honest in all their dealings, people whose walk matches their talk, people who keep the promises they make, people whose word is their bond. Will you be such a person?

Questions ...

1. According to Romans 13:13, how are we to walk? _____

2. According to Romans 13:13, how are we **not** to walk?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
 - e) _____
 - f) _____
3. Solomon said there are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him.
 - a) Which two are an integral part of our walk of honesty? (Proverbs 6:16-19)
 - i) _____
 - ii) _____
 - b) How is giving a false witness worse than lying about yourself or what you yourself have done? (*Thought question – answers will vary.*) _____

 - c) What does Proverbs 19:9 say about a person who gives false witness? _____

4. Read Acts 5:1-11.
 - a) Who told the first lie? _____

- b) Who then repeated the same lie? _____
- c) Why do you think they told the lie? _____

- d) To whom did Peter say that they had actually lied? _____
- e) How were they punished for their lies? _____
5. In Colossians 3:8-9, Paul listed things, such as lying and using filthy language, that are regarded by many as “little” sins. We tend to think these “little sins” pose little danger to our spiritual life. But here Paul challenges us to deeper obedience, by **putting off** the _____ in every area of our lives.
6. We are also tested in our walk of honesty by what we do.
- a) If we gain something by fraud or deceit, we may actually enjoy it for a while. Hebrews 11:25 calls this a sin that will bring temporary pleasure for just a season. But what does Proverbs 20:17 say will be the end result? _____

- b) Proverbs 20:23 and Proverbs 11:1 both address the issue of _____

- c) What would be a modern day example of how we might be dishonest in this area? (*Answers will vary.*) _____

7. In Luke 16:10 Jesus said that anyone who can be trusted in little matters can also be trusted _____

CHAPTER 18

Walk in the Strength of the Lord

Divine Briefing ...

"I walk in the strength of the Lord God. I tell everyone that you alone are just and good" (Psalm 71:16 – Living Bible).

Strength, power for living, is needed by everyone in these challenging times. And God is willing to give us His strength in an abundant supply. To walk in His strength, we must simply trust Him and forsake anything that would block God's presence in our lives.

Some find their weaknesses and seasons of hardship embarrassing – thinking they must not really be good Christians to bring such a situation down on their own heads. But during those times, no matter how we got there, the important thing is to **not** cover up the pain, but instead turn to Him, No matter how hopeless the situation may seem, God wants to be your strength. Keep seeking Him, worshiping Him, and serving Him. Psalm 84:5 says, *"Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them."*

He will give us comfort and help us lift our heads high, so we can face tomorrow assured of His love and strength. He is our invincible army – unshakable, indestructible, consistent, strong and true. Along with Habakuk, we should all be saying, *"The Lord God is my strength, and He will make my feet like hinds' feet, and He will make me to walk upon mine high places"* (Habakuk 3:19).

There's an old English adage that says, "A smooth sea never made a skillful sailor." If you are going through a difficult season of hardship, take advantage of that season to build up your strength in the Lord.

Looks Like ...

Rick Warren tells the story of when the Communists invaded Enshon, Korea, during the Korean War. The first thing they did was to capture a prominent pastor and his family, and take them to a large hole that they had dug just outside of town. They put the husband, the wife and their 3 children in the ground, and then they brought the church and the whole city out to witness what was about to happen.

After everyone was there, the Communist leader said to the pastor, "The only words you are to say are in renunciation of your faith. Unless you renounce your belief, we will bury your family alive - right before your very eyes." Can you imagine having to make such a choice? His children started crying and the pastor sunk to his knees in anguish. Finally he looked into his wife's eyes, and was just about to renounce his faith when his wife put her hand over his mouth and said, "Please, don't deprive us of the privilege of dying for Jesus. He died for us."

Would you be willing to do the same thing, sacrifice your entire family for the sake of the gospel? Such an act of heroism could only have been carried out in the strength of the Lord.

Ask Yourself ...

Do you lean on God's strength or your own when faced with a problem? Is there any habitual sin that could possibly be blocking your ability to walk with faith in His strength?

Questions ...

1. How do you exert your strength in such a way that you are actually relying on the strength of another Person? Following are some Bible verses that explain how this works.

a) How do we put to death the deeds of the body? (Romans 8:13) _____

b) Read Philippians 2:12-13. Verse 12 says that it is OUR responsibility to work out our salvation with _____

For the believer, this isn't the fear of hell or damnation. Rather it should be the righteous and awe-filled reverence of God, and the joyful **trembling** of a personal encounter with the glory of God.

What is the only way we are able to conform our will and actions to Him? (vs. 13)

c) Paul felt that his sins were worse than most people's, and he also *said that he worked harder than most*. But he said his efforts were *not* his alone. To whom did he give all the credit for the strength to accomplish so much for the Lord? (1 Corinthians 15:10) _____

d) In Colossians 1:29, Paul made a similar statement. He explained that he worked, he struggled, and he put forth a lot of effort and energy. He didn't go about his work half-heartedly, hoping somehow that grace would fill in the gaps if he got tired. He gave it his full effort, but he was also working hard according to _____

e) Like the apostle Paul, we too serve. We too expend effort and energy of our own. But, like Paul, our serving also is the result of God's gracious power and strength. Explain how this works according to 1 Peter 4:11.

i) When we speak, we speak _____

ii) When we minister, we do it _____

iii) What is the purpose of our service? _____

2. When David was feeling frazzled by the events around him, he always strengthened himself in the Lord his God (I Samuel 30:6). How can we receive more of the strengthening power of the Lord into our own hearts and lives?

a) Psalm 28:7: _____

b) Psalm 61:2: _____

c) Psalm 105:4: _____

d) Psalm 138:3: _____

e) Isaiah 40:31: _____

f) 1 Chronicles 16:11: _____

g) Matthew 11:28: _____

h) Ephesians 6:10-20: _____

3. In today's society, people are encouraged to believe in themselves, and to display a "can do" attitude - especially at work. Is this wrong? (*Thought question – answers will vary.*) _____

CHAPTER 19

Walk in the Spirit

Divine Briefing ...

“This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” (Galatians 5:16-17).

Walking in the Spirit is the key to overcoming the flesh, but it doesn't come easily. Often, it is a real battle. When the flesh is winning the inside battle, you don't do the things that you wish you would, and you don't live the way you know is right. In Romans 7:19, Paul explained the ongoing battle he was fighting this way. “For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.”

We can relate – we've all been there. But it is possible to win the battle when we are walking in the Spirit. But what does it mean “to walk in the Spirit”?

After you are saved, the Holy Spirit is living within you.

You become more and more sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Decisions and choices you make are always impacted by influence of the Holy Spirit.

Later, in the same chapter, Paul said, “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25). In this verse, the word Greek word *stoicheo* was used, which means “to walk in line with.” Here Paul is saying, “Keep in step with the Spirit.”

Jesus Himself was led by the Spirit (Luke 4:1), and we can tell when people are keeping in step with the Holy Spirit because their walk will look a lot like Jesus' walk.

Looks Like ...

When Paul, formerly called Saul, tried to reconcile with the Jerusalem church after having persecuted many of its members before he became a Christian, Barnabas was at his side (Acts 9:26-30). Many in Jerusalem were concerned about Paul getting involved with the church, remembering his former deeds. But Barnabas reached out on his behalf, and said, “You need to listen to this guy. He's a changed man.” And with time, the early church began to accept Paul.

Barnabas became Paul's mentor, but later a serious disagreement came between them over whether young John Mark would accompany them on a journey. Paul was upset with John Mark because he had previously gone home right in the middle of a mission trip. But Barnabas kept insisting that they should give Mark another chance. With this matter standing between them, they went their separate ways (Acts 15:39-41).

Their disagreement was not permanent, however, as we know Paul and Barnabas later worked together serving the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 9:6). At the same time, Barnabas continued to mentor young John Mark in his ministry. Later, Paul admitted that Barnabas had been right not to give up on John Mark. What a loss that would have been

if he had been completely rejected, as John Mark became the author of the Gospel of Mark.

Only a person walking in the Spirit, and sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, could have looked beyond Paul's and Mark's past mistakes, and seen the real change and ministry potential in them.

Ask Yourself ...

Barnabas' given name was Joseph but, because he was so supportive, the disciples called him Barnabas (translated "Son of Encouragement"). Who is your Barnabas? Are you anyone's encourager and mentor?

Questions ...

1. What does it mean to "walk in the Spirit"?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____

2. What does it look like to walk in the Spirit? Give a practical example of either a Bible character or a person you know who is walking in the Spirit. _____

3. The command to walk in the Spirit is given to all of us -- not just to a few super-saints. Following are suggestions that will help you get your steps lined up properly with the Holy Spirit.
 - a) Grab hold of who you are in Christ. The Bible says that we are ... (Romans 8:16)

meaning we have an eternal parent Who cares for us, is on our side and is cheering us on in righteousness.
 - b) Deny your flesh. What did Jesus tell His disciples they must first do in order to follow Him? (Matthew 16:24) _____

When you do this, you are asserting spiritual dominion over your flesh, and letting your flesh know that God is in control.

c) Keep your thought life under control. The world today is concerned about being politically correct in what we say, but Paul was more concerned that we be spiritually correct in what we think. On what 8 things did Paul say that we should keep our thoughts focused? (Philippians 4:8)

- i) _____ v) _____
- ii) _____ vi) _____
- iii) _____ vii) _____
- iv) _____ viii) _____

d) Pray and listen. Have you ever talked to someone who just dominated the conversation and never let you say one word? This is what it's like when we pray 'at' God and don't take time to listen to Him. In Proverbs 2:2, what advice did Solomon give regarding this?

- i) _____
- ii) _____

e) Avoid strife. Walking in the Spirit means walking in harmony not only with God but also with others. What did Paul tell the Ephesians they should be doing in order to live and work in peace with one another? (Ephesians 4)

- i) _____ (vs. 2)
- ii) _____ (vs. 25)
- iii) _____ (vs. 26)
- iv) _____ (vs. 28)
- v) _____ (vs. 29)
- vi) _____ (vs. 31)
- vii) _____ (vs. 32)

f) Get your priorities in order. The only way to do this is to ... (Matthew 6:33) _____

g) Examine yourself for any areas of weakness. Get real and use the Word of God to check on yourself. This is important, because the enemy knows your weaknesses better than you do. At the same time, don't let your self-examination

or the enemy discourage you because ... (2 Corinthians 12:9-10) _____

- h) Depend on the leading of the Holy Spirit. When we are saved, the Holy Spirit of God takes up residence in our lives and dwells with us forever. The fact that He will never leave or forsake us is cause for great joy and comfort. Thank God for this precious gift — the Holy Spirit and His continuous work in our lives!

CHAPTER 20

Walk in Good Works

Divine Briefing ...

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

Once we become a believer in Christ Jesus, God expects (has ordained) that we become active in good works. Good works are an integral part of God's plan for us. Our good works are solid evidence that we are walking as one of God's chosen.

In verses 8 and 9 just before, Paul had emphasized the fact that our salvation is not a result of good works, saying, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Good works don't lead us to salvation. Rather, salvation leads us to do good works. We have not been saved by works. We have been saved for good works. Our good works flow from our salvation. In addition, the works to which we have been called have been pre-ordained and pre-prepared by God.

Knowing this, we can be encouraged. God has planned the course of our Christian service. All opportunities for good works that come across our path have been pre-planned and pre-arranged by God so we can “walk in them” (Eph. 2:10). All we have to do is become more sensitive to His leading, and when He nudges us to do something ... obey.

Looks Like ...

In 1735, John Wesley decided to become a missionary (to save his soul) and sailed with his brother Charles to the Americas. Their mission was not as successful as they had hoped and John began to question his beliefs about faith and how to be saved. Gradually his theology began to change and he began to preach "salvation by faith alone" rather than "salvation through righteousness and good deeds".

He began to speak and teach about this with his brother, Charles, and the Methodist revival began as a movement within the Church of England in the 18th century. Large crowds of up to 20,000 were drawn to hear this eloquent, soberly dressed man teaching about salvation.

Wesley didn't restrict his good works to preaching the gospel. He began to write hymns, and he also put his mind to medicine. He set up free clinics, which were some of the first in England to use electricity for medical purposes. He also wrote "Primitive Physick: An Easy and Natural Method of Curing Most Diseases", published in 1747. His hope was to educate the common people so that they had something practical they could use to help themselves.

In addition, John Wesley wrote a commentary on the entire Bible, to help us understand the Word. John has been credited with saying, "Do all the good you can, by all the

means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." Whether he actually said it or not, he lived his life by this principle.

Ask Yourself ...

Look around to see what opportunities for good works God has put right in your path. Have you been so focused on yourself that you missed seeing them?

Questions ...

1. According to Matthew 7:22-23, salvation is based on faith in Jesus ("they call him Lord") and good deeds, i.e., prophesying, casting out demons, and performing miracles. True False

2. In Luke 18:9-14, Jesus talked about a Pharisee who believed in God, did good things, and did not do bad things. Yet, he was not saved. Why not? _____

3. Salvation by doing good works seems right in the eyes of man. One of man's basic desires is to be in control of his own destiny, and that includes his eternal destiny. Salvation by works appeals to man's pride and his desire to be in control. Being saved by works appeals to that desire far more than the idea of being saved by faith alone. What is wrong with this thinking, according to Ephesians 2:8-9? _____

4. On the other hand, James 2:26 tells us that faith without works is _____ because the lack of works reveals an unchanged life and a heart that has not been transformed and regenerated by God.

5. Our godly attitudes and _____ (Matthew 5:15-16) display evidence of our devotion to Christ. The important thing is to be sure that our works glorify _____ and not ourselves.

6. Give two reasons why all of us should be faithful students of God's holy Word. (2 Timothy 3:17)
 - a) _____
 - b) _____

7. In Romans 2:10, what did the apostle Paul say will come to those who "worketh good."

a) _____ c) _____

b) _____

8. In the Old Testament days, and probably still today, some claimed to have the "gift" of faith, but not the "gift" of works. They would say something like, "It's fine for you to have your gift of works and it's nice that you help take care of the needy. But that isn't my gift (or my calling)."

James would not tolerate this type of thinking. How did he answer this in James 2:18? _____

9. I believe that putting your full tithe in the offering basket on Sunday (Malachi 3:10) isn't really giving. That is simply **not stealing** - not keeping back from God what is already His.

In addition to the tithe, we are also to _____ (Luke 6:38)

Using both Malachi 3:10 and Luke 6:38, what has God promised to do for "givers." _

CHAPTER 21

Walk in Wisdom

Divine Briefing ...

"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time" (Colossians 4:5).

The Christian life isn't only lived in the prayer closet. It isn't a private thing ... just between you and God. There also must be a practical, lived-out Christian life - in our home, in the community, and at work. We are to walk in wisdom and with kindness among those who are without Christ, outside the faith. As we do this, we will redeem opportunities to lead them to the Lord by our walk.

The Christian walk is an evangelistic walk of life. Jesus commanded this with His parting words for the church: *"Go and make disciples"* (Matthew 28:19). There are no excuses for not spreading the Good News everywhere we go, whether we travel to the mission field or never leave our home town, because we have been empowered to do this by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, *"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses"* (Acts 1:8).

Looks Like ...

Billy Graham will celebrate his 98th birthday on Nov. 7, 2016. According to his staff, more than 3.2 million people have responded to the invitation at Billy Graham Crusades to "accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior." I imagine when we get to heaven, we'll find out there were actually many more.

Billy Graham is well-known for his walk of wisdom. Through his long and extraordinary career, Graham has been overwhelmingly regarded in a positive light. He is known as the evangelist who did not rip off millions, did not visit prostitutes, and did not use the pulpit for political purposes.

Graham's wisdom has encouraged millions to seek his spiritual guidance, including Martin Luther King, Jr., Bono, Muhammad Ali and United States presidents from Eisenhower to Bush. He has been rated by the Gallop organization as "One of the Ten Most Admired Men in the World" a staggering 51 times. He is regarded by contemporaries as humorous, non-judgmental, sincere, innocent and accepting.

Ask Yourself ...

Many seek further education so they can improve themselves in the world's eyes, and increase their earning ability. But this verse emphasizes our personal growth. Do I study the Word daily, so I will increase in wisdom and be more equipped to lead others to the Lord?

Questions ...

1. What did Solomon say is the purpose of godly wisdom? (Proverbs 11:30) _____

2. How did Daniel explain the purpose of wisdom in Daniel 12:3? _____

3. Who are "them that are without", or the "outsiders" mentioned in Colossians 4:5? _____

4. Read Colossians 3:16-17.
 - a) Where can we turn to gain more of the wisdom we need to "walk in wisdom"? _____

 - b) In what way are we to use this wisdom? _____

 - c) How are we to do all things, whether in word or deed? _____

5. What does a walk of wisdom look like in real life? (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
6. According to Proverbs 28:26, a person who trusts in his own heart is _____,
but a person who walks wisely _____
7. Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-7, and then mark these statements as True or False.
 - a) _____ To be perfect in wisdom is to be instructed in God by the Spirit.
 - b) _____ Human wisdom is changeable, while divine wisdom is eternal.
 - c) _____ Gospel wisdom is mature wisdom.

- d) _____ The world's wisdom is not the wisdom of the gospel.
8. What will we find if we search the scriptures to find the hidden wisdom of God? (John 5:39) _____
- _____

CHAPTER 22

Walk in the Footsteps of Abraham's Faith

Divine Briefing ...

"And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised" (Romans 4:12).

The Jews of Paul's day wanted to use circumcision as the link that made them true descendants of Abraham. In this section of scripture, Paul was explaining that Abraham was counted righteous before he was circumcised; therefore he could not have been counted righteous because he was circumcised.

Romans 4:3 says, *"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."* Paul noted that Abraham's faith was unhampered by the fact that he was almost a hundred years old. His body may have been getting weaker, but he was never weak in faith. He was strong in faith.

Faith is a deep conviction that God's words are true and that God will perform all that He promises. Abraham simply believed that God always would do what He said He would do. This verse encourages us to have faith like Abraham.

Looks Like ...

George Müller (1805-1898), was a Christian evangelist and Director of the Ashley Down Orphanage in Bristol, England. Over his lifetime, he cared for 10,024 orphans. He also established 117 schools which offered Christian education to over 120,000 children, many of whom were orphans.

It was Müller's unshakable faith in God's providing hand that made the Bristol orphanages so unique. Some leaders visiting the orphanage asked the matron of the home, "Of course you cannot carry these institutions without a good stock of funds. . . Have you a good stock?" The matron quietly replied, "Our funds are deposited in a bank which cannot break."

Tears came to the eyes of the visitors, who gave a donation to the work -- a very timely gift because at the moment there were no funds on hand to feed the children. The orphanage never accumulated a surplus of funds, but daily relied on the Lord for their provisions. That is a true walk of faith.

Ask Yourself ...

Abraham's walk of faith was demonstrated by his trust in God's promises, even when things looked bad. Does your walk show confidence that God can bring you through? Or does the world see fear or desperation in your face when troubles come your way?

Questions ...

1. Describe some instances of obedience that demonstrated Abraham's faith, and a few of God's promises that Abraham believed with all his heart.
 - a) Genesis 12:1-4 and Hebrews 11:8-10: _____

 - b) Genesis 13:14-17: _____

 - c) Genesis 15:4-6 and Romans 4:18-21: _____

 - d) Genesis 22 and Hebrews 11:17: _____

2. Abraham was able to obey God in these situations, and believe in His promises, because He knew _____
_____ (Luke 1:37 and Matthew 19:26)
3. Abraham did many works that demonstrated his strong faith in God. John 8:39 says that, if we are true descendants of Abraham, we will _____

4. In your own words, explain what was so special about Abraham's faith. What lesson can we learn from it? _____

5. In your own words, explain what was so special about George Müller's faith. What lesson can we learn from it? _____

6. There are many examples in the Bible of people who showed us what it looks like to walk in the footsteps of Abraham's faith. Who are these people, and what did they do that took extraordinary faith?

- a) Genesis 6:8-22: _____

- b) Job 1:22: _____

- c) Genesis 50:20: _____

- d) Ruth 1:16-18: _____

- e) Esther 4:14: _____

- f) Daniel 6:10: _____

- g) 2 Kings 1:15: _____

- h) Acts 21:10-14: _____

CHAPTER 23

Walk in All His Ways

Divine Briefing ...

"And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of the Lord, and His statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?" (Deuteronomy 10:12-13)

Every directive God has given us is for our own good. He doesn't make up rules so He can exercise His power, or so He can feel important. Every command He makes is with our best interest in mind, even if we cannot sense it or understand it.

The admonition to "walk in all His ways" summarizes all the commandments in one short phrase. It implies a deeper level of obedience than forced compliance. It conveys the idea that there is a real relationship of love between God and His people, and our obedience flows naturally from that relationship.

When we walk in all His ways, we will love, serve, and obey Him with all our heart and soul.

Looks Like ...

Think of two people in an intimate relationship. They walk side by side, matching each other's steps almost subconsciously because being close is what they do.

Or picture a little boy with his parents. The parents hold tightly to the boy's hand so he won't run off into the street. Sometime the parents will shorten their steps to match the child's. But if they're in a hurry, one of the parents will just swoop the little boy up and carry him through crowds, around obstacles and over cracks in the pavement that might have caused him to fall.

Now imagine a man walking his dog on a leash. He gives the dog some freedom, but the dog is well trained and obedient. He knows that staying close to his master is the right thing to do. If the master tugs on the leash, the dog obeys, changes direction and goes where the master tells him to go.

It isn't easy for a dog to stay on track when there are other animals around to distract him, and it's the same for us. Sometimes we get off course when we "walk" with the wrong people.

Ask Yourself ...

Do any of the examples above look like your walk with God? Or are you always pulling away, wanting to go in a different direction?

Questions ...

1. When the Lord wants to emphasize a point, you will find the same message repeated throughout the Bible, worded different ways. How do each of these passages indicate we are to walk in His ways?

a) Micah 4:2: _____

b) 1 Kings 8:61: _____

c) 2 Kings 23:3 and 2 Chronicles 34:31: _____

d) 2 John 1:6: _____

e) Philippians 3:16: _____

f) Psalm 119:1: _____

2. Some people have chosen to walk in all the world's ways, which is what Satan wants. But we can't point the finger of accusation at them. How have we too walked in the past? (Ephesians 2:2-3) _____

3. I am a pianist, and when I sit down to play at church, I don't even have to think about where my fingers are going. Whether I am reading sheet music or playing by ear, I can play the piano without looking down at the keys. Likewise, when I sit down at the keyboard in front of my computer, I don't have to look at the letters on the keyboard to type a word or sentence. Why? _____

How can we apply this same principle with regard to God and walking in His ways?

4. America as a nation, along with many other countries, has fallen far short of walking in His ways and obeying His commandments. What trends in today's society do you find the most disturbing? (*Thought question, answers will vary.*)

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

5. America has experienced a few centuries of His blessings and protection. But we need to wake up. Read Proverbs 1:24-33.

a) What did God say will happen to those who will not walk in His ways and refuse to listen to Him? _____

b) On the other hand, what will happen to those who listen and pay attention to the Lord? _____

6. What is the only solution for the problem of disobedience in our nations? (Acts 3:19)

7. What has God promised to those who will repent and walk in all His ways?

a) Jeremiah 7:23: _____

b) Deuteronomy 5:33: _____

CHAPTER 24

Walk with God

Divine Briefing ...

"Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God" (Genesis 6:9).

Many people attempt to walk with God, but they bring along all their bad habits and addictions, their sins, their favorite worldly entertainments, and ungodly relationships. They know these things aren't choices God would agree with, and their lifestyle doesn't line up with God's Word. But they pretend everything is going along just fine.

And they're just fooling themselves. To walk with God means that you and God are on the wavelength about your life choices. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). To walk with God means your will is lined up with His will, and you seek every day to see yourself "crucified with Christ" (Galatians 2:20).

You don't have to be perfect, and none of us are (Romans 3:10). But when you walk with God, you will strive with all your strength to do only what is pleasing to God, and you will be open to the influence of the Holy Spirit, as He conforms you to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29).

Looks Like ...

Genesis 5:24 says, *"And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."* Now, when this happened, God wasn't trying to say, "Hey, if you get to be as spiritual as Enoch, I'm going to come get you too!"

This was a unique experience, and God used it to emphasize a specific truth. God's point was, "I love to walk with that man! Enoch was the first man to truly walk with Me, so I decided to do something special for him. I took him up to paradise to highlight how much I value and desire a daily walking relationship with all My people."

Enoch's example continues to witness to all generations about the great importance God places on walking with man. As we walk with God, He will open the Scriptures to our understanding and talk to us. Make time to begin every day with praise, prayer, and time in the Word. It will make a difference in the way your entire day goes.

Here is a suggestion. Go for a walk every day to improve your physical health, and walk and talk with God at the same time to improve your spiritual health.

Ask Yourself ...

Do I stay too busy to spend time walking with God?

Questions ...

1. Name the two people from our lesson who walked with God.
 - a) _____
 - b) _____

2. Christianity isn't just about a list of do's and don'ts. It's all about a relationship with God. We were made to _____ with God and, without that relationship, our lives are incomplete and unsatisfying.

3. Watch the video in this chapter, and answer the following questions.
 - a) When you walk with someone, that implies _____

 - b) How was the speaker's walking his girls to school a picture of our walk with God?

 - c) How is our intentional, purposeful walking with God different from God walking with us? _____

 - d) David walked with God in such a way that he was known as _____

 - e) What did the Hebrews have that reminded them to walk with God? _____

What was the symbolic meaning of the threads? _____

What was the symbolic meaning of the tassels? _____

What could we do today to remind ourselves to walk with God? _____

f) What are some of the ways that walking with God is completely counter-cultural?

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

4. Congratulations on completing the course. What lesson in this series has impacted your thinking the most? (*Thought question, answers will vary.*) _____
