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*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)*

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## WALK LIKE AN EPHESIAN

In the book of Ephesians, Paul uses the word "walk" in six verses. In each verse, he uses it in the sense of one's conduct or manner of living their life. He is writing to these Ephesian believers to show them how they are to live their lives as they pass through this world as pilgrims and strangers.

I want to touch briefly on each of these six verses. What Paul told these Christians 2,000 years ago is still valid for us, in our world, today. Let's take a few minutes to look into

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these verses and learn how to "Walk Like An Ephesian".

In the first chapter of Ephesians we learn something about what Paul thinks of the Christians at Ephesus; he seems to hold these brethren in high esteem.

*Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; (Eph. 1:15-16)*

The first walk Paul teaches them is the Working Walk.

*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. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:8-10)*

While we are not saved by our works, we are expected to work, as we see in James 2:18: "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." No amount of our good works can produce salvation, but a sincere walk with God will include many good works.

As the Ephesians scripture points out, "we are His workmanship" (2:10); that is, His handiwork. By his act we are created to show forth His plan of salvation. So now it is our duty to work to share this with others.

The second walk is the Worthy Walk. "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith

ye are called" (Eph. 4:1). That is to say, "Let your walk match what you believe."

We can all think of someone who claims to be a Christian but whose actions fail to bear that out. This verse reminds us that we have been called by God to a part of His saving plan. We are to "walk worthy" of that calling. We are to balance our lives with the fact the He has called us "out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Pet. 2:9). Only one whose life balances with what they say is worthy of the name Christian!

The third walk we want to examine is the *Committed Walk*.

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

Paul's emphasis in this verse is that believers ought to be different! They have been transformed, and they are no longer to live like the world around them (Rom. 12:2). Remember, those who are in Jesus are "new creatures" (2 Cor. 5:17).

Let's remember the corruption and vice of the Ephesus of Paul's day. It was a wicked city filled with wicked men and wicked worship. The temple of the goddess Diana was there (Acts 19:24-28). It was a place associated with paganism, prostitution, and crime. Ephesus was no easy place to live. But, Paul calls upon them to be different:

*And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.* (Eph 4:23-24)

The same clear lines of distinction should still exist between the people of the Lord and the world around us.

The fourth walk is the Loving Walk. "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour" (Eph. 5:2).

Paul tells the Ephesians that their lives are to be characterized by love. Jesus said that love was to be the defining trait of His disciples.

*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. (John 13:34-35)*

The love Paul refers to here is the Greek word *agape*. It is an unconditional love, based on a conscious choice, after close evaluation. In other words, it means to love someone in spite of what they are, what they have done, or what you know about them. It is loving like Jesus. *Agape* is spelled out clearly in 1 Corinthians 13 as the word "charity" in the KJV:

*Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. (verses 4-7)*

The fifth walk is the Witnessing Walk. "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light" (Eph. 5:8). Note the contrast in this verse. We "were...darkness" (and the lost still are). Now we "are...light". Our whole nature has been changed and we are to live that change out before a world trapped in darkness. As we do, our lives become living testimonies to the awesome

power of God to change the sinner. Lost people see the change, and are stirred in their hearts. *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* (Matt 5:16)

It is not enough just to walk in the light. We are light: *"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."* (Matt. 5:14)

The sixth and final walk is the Wise Walk. *"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise"* (Eph. 5:15). The word "circumspectly" means, "accurately, exactly, diligently." Paul's call is for believers to walk with their eyes open. We are to watch each step we take, looking diligently for the snares of the devil, and for the opportunities of the Lord (1 Pet. 5:8).

We can either live our lives like fools, or we can live as wise men. Fools might fall for the devil's traps, and walk in disobedience. Wise men, on the other hand, make every minute count for the glory of the Lord: *"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."* (Eph. 5:16)

Are you walking with God?

Based on a sermon given by WENDELL ROGERS

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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What was David's occupation before he became king?
2. Which small body part "boasteth of great things"?
3. What tragedy did Jacob think had happened to Joseph?

4. How was Daniel protected from the lions in the den?
5. Who rolled away Jesus' tomb stone?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH...

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## APOLOGIA

QUESTION: In Ephesians 6:20, Paul said he was an ambassador in bonds. What does being an ambassador mean?

ANSWER: The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines an ambassador as follows:

1. a diplomatic agent to a foreign government as the resident representative of his or her own government or appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment,
2. an authorized representative or messenger.

Ambassador Function: An effective ambassador would need to learn the local language, be in constant contact with its citizens, learn cultural differences, and not be isolated from the environment of the foreign country. However, an ambassador could become too comfortable with the foreign country, prefer it to his homeland, and fall in love with the people and culture. Therefore, the role of ambassador could become compromised and he could be considered a traitor.

Life on Earth is Temporary: James said our life

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is like a vapor that appears for a short time and then vanishes away (Jam. 4:13-15). Peter compares our life on earth as grass and a flower that live for a short period of time (1 Pet. 1:23-25). In 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Paul indicates that our physical bodies are perishing day by day.

Ambassador Assignment: Because we as Christians are just ambassadors and not permanent residents of this world, God allows us to experience a certain amount of discomfort and dissatisfaction. We will never be totally happy here because this world is not our home. We may experience some happy moments in this world; however, we were created for something much better. Paul described it well in 1 Corinthians 2:9, *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."*

Strangers and Pilgrims: Peter describes Christians as physical strangers and pilgrims on the earth (1 Pet. 2:11). In Hebrews 11:8-16, Abraham was an ambassador for God in a strange country physically as well as spiritually. Although Abraham did not live to see the physical promised land, he did receive the promise and he had faith that his descendants would see the promised land. Abraham was truly an ambassador for the eternal promised land of Heaven while he served God on the Earth.

True Citizenship is in Heaven: As Christians, we are no longer spiritual strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and the household of God (Eph. 2:19). *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."* (Php. 3:20 NKJV)

Conclusion: In 1 John 2:15-17 below, this passage declares plainly why, as Christians, this world is not our home.

# Gospel Meetings

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
April 1 - 5	Liberty Congregation Liberty, KY	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
April 12 - 14	West Broad Street Wedowee, AL	Various Speakers
April 15 - 19	Oak Grove Congregation Eubank, KY	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
April 19 - 21	Valley Congregation Valley, AL	Wilbur Bass Kevin Mills Hunter Bulger
April 26 - 28	Pleasant Ridge Congregation Woodbury, TN	Tim Eldridge (Woodland, AL)

*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

Therefore, if we are just temporary residents here on earth, who are we to be an ambassador for? An **Ambassador for Christ!**

Do our friends, family, co-workers, and others see us as an ambassador for Christ or for something else?

MARK CARPENTER  
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