

Eternity Daily Bible Study

“Walking As He Walked”: Living By Christ's Commandments

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Topic: 1 – “Walking As He Walked”

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1 John 2:5-6 MKJV *But whoever keeps His Word, truly in this one the love of God is perfected. By this we know that we are in Him. (6) He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked.*

Walking = the continuing expression of our faith = Christian lifestyle. The premise of this series will be that our lifestyle is to reflect the lifestyle of Jesus Christ, but adapted for our time, culture and social context. By that I mean you don't have to have a beard and long hair or wear sandals or be a carpenter, or otherwise live as a first-century Jew. You can drive a car, work as a plumber, teacher or store clerk and be a totally bald Italian. Those things are just external. The image of God is found in the character of Christ!

It is the internal life of faith and holiness expressed in outward acts of obedience, good works and loving relationships that truly matters:

Galatians 5:6 ISV *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision matters. What matters is faith that is active through love.*

There are many who ask questions such as: "Do I have to do X in order to be saved?" (e.g "Do I have to be baptized in order to be saved?"). The answer to 99% of such questions is "No" - because we are not saved by our works. The only things we have to do in order to be saved are:

- a) Believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Risen Savior and
- b) Repent from our sins asking for forgiveness and the power to lead a holy life.
(You cannot really say that you believe in Jesus as Lord if you are not prepared to have God deal with your sin!)

This series is NOT about the things you must do in order to be "saved" or more accurately "justified" or made right with God. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, on the basis of the Scriptures alone, for the glory of God alone (the five "Solas" of the Reformation).

Instead this series will be about sanctification – about living as God intends us to live *after* we are saved. God calls us to be holy as He is holy and to be perfect (in love) as He is perfect!

1 Peter 1:15-16 ISV *Instead, just as the one who called you is holy, be holy in every aspect of your life. (16) For it is written, "You must be holy, because I am holy."*

Matthew 5:48 ISV "So be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

God loves us just as we are; but He also loves us too much to leave us just as we are! Jesus calls us to change, to be perfected, to love others and to do good works that He has prepared beforehand for us to do:

Ephesians 2:8-10 ISV *For by such grace you have been saved through faith. This does not come from you; it is the gift of God (9) and not the result of works, lest anyone boast. (10) For we are his masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared long ago to be our way of life.*

I am very content when I work in the garden, I am happy with our garden, but I also expect the plants in the garden to grow and be fruitful so I tend them, nurture them and water them. We are God's garden and He wants us to grow and to bear fruit!

Therefore we cannot say to ourselves: "OK I am saved now, I will just take it easy, I don't have to change, indeed I don't even want to change." The Holy Spirit will speak to you through Scripture and through your conscience and through the Church and other believers and He will convict you of areas that you need to change in. If you resist the voice of God the Holy Spirit then you end up resisting God and that has very bad consequences for the Christian life.

All those commandments of Jesus Christ are in the Bible for a reason – so that we will be convicted by them and obey them and thereby become mature in Christ reflecting the image of God and bringing glory to God. So the big question then becomes: "How can I live a life that is pleasing to the Lord and which brings much glory to God?"

Romans 12:1-2 ISV *I therefore urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercies, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices that are holy and **pleasing to God**, for this is the reasonable way for you to worship. (2) Do not be conformed to this world, but continually be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may be able to determine what God's will is-what is proper, **pleasing**, and perfect.*

Romans 14:17-18 ISV *For God's kingdom does not consist of food and drink, but of righteousness, peace, and joy produced by the Holy Spirit. (18) For the person who serves Christ in this way is **pleasing to God** and approved by people.*

Ephesians 5:8-11 ISV *For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. (9) For the fruit of the light consists of every form of goodness, righteousness, and truth. (10) **Determine what pleases the Lord**, (11) and have nothing to do with the unfruitful works of darkness. Instead, expose them for what they are.*

So we see that God is pleased when we live a holy, good, righteous and truthful life that is full of joy and the Holy Spirit. A life that is consecrated, dedicating our bodies to God, living in the light and turning away from darkness and from the evil thought-patterns of this world.

This is a lot more than just praying a prayer at a crusade (though that is also important). This is an ongoing life-long pattern of goodness. We are to "walk as He walked".

Also obedience is not about "fixing" our personal problems such as finances, marriages and career. Obedience is about fixing who we are - in the light of God's Word. If we do this many of our personal problems simply will not arise in the first place. For instance, if we do not covet then we will not live beyond our means but instead we will be content with what we have. Obedience is prior. It must come first – even if it at first just seems to create problems!

Matthew 10:32-39 ISV *"Therefore, everyone who acknowledges me before people I, too, will acknowledge before my Father in heaven. (33) But whoever denies me before people I, too, will deny before my Father in heaven." (34) "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword! (35) For I came to turn 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. (36) A person's enemies will be members of his own family.' (37) "The one who loves his father or mother more than me isn't worthy of me, and the one who loves a son or daughter more than me isn't worthy of me. (38) The one who doesn't take up his cross and follow me isn't worthy of me. (39) The one who finds his life will lose it, and the one who loses his life because of me will find it."*

Therefore the Christian life is a serious business and obedience is serious business. God has a plan for our lives and he wants us to be saved, sanctified and glorified! God wants to see Jesus in our lives!

Romans 8:28-30 ISV *And we know that he works all things together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (29) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (30) And those whom he predestined, he also called; and those whom he called, he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

This series is going to be about how we can "get on board with God" and cooperate with His plan to make us holy, perfect, loving, righteous and good through obeying the commandments of Jesus Christ that are given to us in the New Testament.

Blessings,

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