



IN EPHESIANS

CHRIST

Lesson #33

7x1x3

(Ephesians 4:7-10)

Walk Worthy (Ephesians 4:1-2)

- “worthy” – “balancing the scales” – living as people who have received an abundance of God’s grace, mercy, and unconditional love.
- To walk worthy of our calling takes **DETERMINATION, COMMITMENT, and DISCIPLINE.**
- Walking worthy is a **DELIBERATE** act of our wills.
- “With **all** lowliness” – Christ is our example - Philippians 2:5-8.
- “With longsuffering, bearing with one another in agape love”

Make Every Effort to Keep the Unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3)

- “endeavoring” – this means that it takes work on everyone’s part!
- **ONE** Body, Spirit, Hope, Lord, Faith, Baptism, God

BUT to Each One of Us (Ephesians 4:7-8)

- Paul now, again, acknowledges that a CHURCH IS ONE but within that ONENESS there is diversity.
- (Romans 12:4-5) There are “**many** members in ONE BODY, but all the members do not have the same function, so we being **many** are ONE BODY, **and** individually members of one another.” (See 1 Corinthians 12:12)
 - ★ **ALL members have a function in the Body.**
 - ★ One cannot call him/herself a Christian without being an active, serving member in a local Body of Christ. (1 Cor 12:14-18)
- (1 Corinthians 12:4) “There are **diversity** of gifts, but the same Spirit.”
- (1 Corinthians 12:6) “There are **diversity** of activities, but it is the **same** God who works all in all.”
- (1 Corinthians 12:11) “ONE and the SAME Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one **individually** as He wills.”
- (1 Corinthians 12:18) God sets the members, **each one of them**, in the body just as He pleases.

- (Ephesians 4:7) “to **each one**” – **every** member is given grace.
 - “grace” – enabling grace that **works** in **each** member to enable him/her to use his/her God given gifts to glorify God and to serve others in the Body.

The PSALM 68 Challenge (Ephesians 4:8)

- (Ephesians 4:8) Paul points back to Psalm 68:18 to show his point! BUT THIS IS WHERE THE CHALLENGE BEGINS! Paul does not quote Psalm 68:18 exactly as the Hebrew or the LXX shows!!!
 - ★ The same Holy Spirit that moved David to write the Psalm is the same Holy Spirit that moved Paul to write Ephesians 4:8.
 - ★ Paul certainly knew what the Hebrew text and LXX said!!
- We need to observe that David wrote Psalm 68 all about God Himself. It was/is God who gave victories to His people. Yet, Paul, attributes the Psalm to Christ!
- As students of God’s Word we know, from study, that the Old Testament writer wrote about a local contemporary historical event, but under the influence of the Holy Spirit the writer was moved to write about something that was yet to happen. Here, David writes about an event that foreshadowed a **greater** event in the future.
- An immediate lesson we learn here is that Paul was saying, “Jesus is Yahweh; Jesus is God!”
- The Hebrew and LXX state, “and **received** gifts for men”, but Paul wrote, “and **gave** gifts unto men”.
 - ★ It is true to say that Christ, when He ascended, gave **and** received gifts. See Acts 2:33. Christ received the promise of the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus gave the Spirit to His Church. And through the Spirit we receive God’s gifts!
- “He led captivity captive” – Paul here is using a victory parade from history. A victor returning home from the battlefield would enter into his city with his captives behind him and sharing the “spoils” with his people. Those who had held captives captive are now led captive themselves. CHRIST is the Victor; the devil, sin, hell, and death are the defeated foes!!
- **MEDITATE:** Genesis 3:15 – He came to crush the head of Satan.
 - Colossians 2:15 – He made public spectacle of His enemies!
 - Matthew 12:29 – He came to disarm the “strong man” and take his spoil away! (Luke 11:22)
 - Hebrews 2:14 – He came to destroy the power of the devil. (1 John 3:8-10)
 - (John 19:30) ON THE CROSS, Christ proclaimed, “IT IS FINISHED!”

Ascending and Descending (Ephesians 4:9-10)

- The natural flow of thought is verse 7 to verse 11, but . . .
- (vv. 9-10) Paul pauses to contemplate Psalm 68:18!
- (Psalm 68:18) **GOD, Yahweh, ascended?????** God inhabits **eternity** – how can David say that God ascended. O, GOD, forgive us for not meditating **HARD** on your Word.
- The **ONLY WAY** for God to ascend would mean that He had to first descend. The **ONLY WAY** for God to do this is to do it in the person Jesus Christ. **AND THIS** is what is revealed in God's Word!
- “descending into the lowest parts of the earth” – this statement is used to give a **GREAT CONTRAST** with “ascended up far above all heavens” (v. 10). Paul is showing the **GREAT DISTANCE** Christ came and the **GREAT HUMILIATION** He suffered to save sinners.

- The idea of this phrase is used in Psalm 63:9-10 speaks of those falling to the sword (death); Isaiah 44:23 speaks of the created earth; Psalm 139:15 speaks of the womb. **ALL** three point to things that happen **ON** the earth. **MEDITATE:** Each of these speak of Christ's descent in His incarnation!
- Christ speaks of His descent . . .
 - (John 3:13) Christ speaks to Nicodemus of His descent and ascent.
 - (John 8:23) “You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”
- **MEDITATE** on the distance between “far above all the heavens” to “the lower parts of the earth” with Philippians 2:5-11.
- **MEDITATE** how far Christ came to **SAVE** sinners.
 - He was conceived in a womb and was born a helpless baby.
 - He “became obedient” unto Joseph and Mary!! (Luke 2:46)
 - He put Himself **under the Law!**
 - He submitted Himself to John's baptism of repentance when He did not wrong! (Mark 1:4, 9-11; Matthew 3:13-17)
 - He allowed Himself to be tempted by the Devil. (Luke 4:1-13)
 - He was abused by the Pharisees and Sadducees.
 - He was obedient to the Father's will and drank the cup of God's wrath in our place. (Matthew 26:36-46)
 - He was whipped and mocked by Romans soldiers.
 - He was crucified as a hardened criminal, died, and was buried.

BUT He Ascended! (Ephesians 4:9-10)

- GOD raised Him from the dead for **OUR** justification! (Romans 4:25)
- **AFTER** He Himself “had purged our sins”, sat down at the right hand of Majesty on high. (Hebrews 1:3; 4:14; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; **Ephesians 1:20-22**; 1 Peter 3:22)

- And when He ascended He took those whom He freed in His descent with Him! (**Ephesians 2:6 – Ephesians 1:19-20; Colossians 3:1-3**)
- He now **SITS** (Hebrews 7:27; 9:12; 10:10) **continuously** making intercession for those whom He died! (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)

He Descend for Sinners; He Ascended for Sinners

Therefore, I beseech you to walk worthy of your calling!

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