

Ephesians 002 - Ephesians 4:1 - 2014-06-01

Call to Worship: Romans 4:7

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6-11

Sermon: "Walk Worthy of the Calling" Ephesians 4:1

Benediction: Joshua 24:24

FROM LAST TIME

I. I hope that the Holy Spirit will renew and maintain and increase our focus on the glory of God in the Lord Jesus Christ

II. I hope that we will better learn the truth about the very fundamentals of true Christianity

Ephesians 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling [KJV: vocation] with which you were called,

III. I hope that the Holy Spirit, by the grace of God, will teach us the relationship between what God commands US to do, and what He has done FOR US in Christ.

A. Observe in Ephesians that we are commanded several things, and they are essentially the same things commanded in several other places in the scriptures---Paul's other letters, the letters from the other apostles, the words of the Lord Jesus Himself, the Old Testament scriptures;; some of these things are even direct quotes from the Ten Commandments

1. Eph 4:25 put away lying and speak the truth
2. Eph 4:26 do not sin in being angry
3. Eph 4:28 do not steal, but work
4. Eph 4:29 do not speak with corrupt speech, but what is good
5. Eph 4:31-32 instead of anger toward one another, practice forgiveness
6. Eph 5 have no part in all the evil things of the world
- 7 Eph 5:18 do not be drunk with wine, but filled with the spirit
8. Eph 5:19 worship together
9. Eph 5:21 submit to one another
10. Eph 5:22 wives submit to your own husbands and respect them
11. Eph 5:25 husbands love your wives
12. Eph 6:1 children obey your parents
13. Eph 6:4 fathers, bring up your children in the Lord
14. Eph 6:5 slaves, be obedient to your masters
15. Eph 6:9 masters, deal kindly with your slaves
16. Eph 6:11 put on the whole armor of God
17. Eph 6:18 pray always

This is the Christian way of living. These are the commands of Christ. The church is to teach disciples to live this way, and each disciple is to learn to live this way.

B. But observe also, in Ephesians, that these commands of Christ begin in chapter 4. The matter of chapters 1-3 is not commandments. Chapters 1-3 contain a glorious description of what God, in grace, has done for us through the Lord Jesus Christ.

1:3 blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

1:4 He chose us in Him

1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ

1:6 He made us accepted in the Beloved

1:7 Christ redeemed us through His blood

1:9 He made known to us the mystery of His will

1:11 He has given us an inheritance

1:13 He sealed us with the Holy Spirit of promise

2:4 He loved us with a great love

2:5 made us who were dead alive together with Christ

2:5 saved us by His grace

2:6 raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

2:8 saved us by grace through faith

2:10 created us in Christ Jesus for good works

2:13 brought us near by the blood of Christ

2:14 made us one new man in Christ

2:16 reconciled us to God through the cross

2:17 preached to us who were afar off

2:18 given us access through Him by the Spirit to the Father

2:19 made us who were strangers and foreigners to be fellow citizens and members of the household of God

2:22 started building us into a holy temple in the Lord

3:3 made known the mystery---that we gentiles should have a part in God's promise through Christ

3:7 provided an apostle to preach to us the unsearchable riches of Christ

3:12 given us access to God with confidence

C. See the very same structure in the letter to the Romans

A. Romans 11:36 and 12:1 compared with Ephesians 3:21 and 4:1

B. Deuteronomy 7:6-11

C. Exodus 20:1-2

D. It is natural to our sinful flesh to start with the commandments of God, and our obedience to them---to have our primary interest be in knowing what God wants us to do, and doing it.

1. Religion that is merely human begins and ends there. All the false religions of the world are built on that formula.

2. More dangerous to us than blatantly false religion is the kind of quasi-Christianity featuring heavy emphasis on obedience to commandments and

lacking emphasis on the connection between obedience to commands and the great work of grace God has done for us in Jesus Christ

3. Ephesians and Romans and the Ten Commandments are structured the way they are to keep us from such a sub-Christian way of thinking and living, to turn our minds first to the undeserved favor of God in Christ on us poor lost sinners, and only afterward to the commands we must obey out of love.

True, God-ordained, biblical Christianity begins with the grace, mercy, and love of God worked out through the centuries, and culminating in the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, His burial, and His resurrection from the dead! Beginning there, in the grace, mercy, and love of God through Jesus Christ, true, saving religion then commands the redeemed what to do, to live in keeping with such a high calling.

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I hope that we will better learn the truth about the very fundamentals of true Christianity

I hope that the Holy Spirit, by the grace of God, will teach us the relationship between what God commands us to do, and what He has done for us in Christ.

IV. I hope that those of you who do not yet trust in Christ will be brought to faith in Him

A. This letter is not directed primarily to you, but to the saints

B. Yet the bible tells us that when the word of God is proclaimed, those who are present may well hear what is being said and be convinced of the truth of it and be convicted of his sins, and, falling down on his face before God will worship God

C. I hope you will look longingly at all the benefits the believers here have received from the Lord and want that for yourselves

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Would you hope for those things with me?

Would you work toward those things with me?

Would you pray for those things with me?

And as we hope, work, and pray for these good things to be accomplished through this study of Ephesians, we will trust that the Lord God knows how to give good gifts to His children, beyond what we even know to ask for, because of His great love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Vincent

“what God would have them do in response to what He had done”