

WALK WORTHY
Colossians 1:9-14
By Andy Manning

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1) A young soldier was arrested for desertion and brought before the king, Alexander the Great. Alexander asked the young man, "What is your name?" The young man said his name was Alexander. Filled with anger, Alexander the Great said, "Well, change your name, or change your ways." Alexander wanted the young man to walk worthy of the name Alexander. Since he shared the king's name, he needed to share the king's character.
- 2) The title of the sermon today is "Walk Worthy." We are going to learn how to walk worthy of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

II. TEXT

- 1) **Colossians 1:9-14** "9 For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, 10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light. 13 He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. 14 In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."
- 2) This passage is Paul's prayer for the church in Colossae.
- 3) This theme of this prayer is that they would walk worthy of the Lord. What does that mean?
 - i. The word "walk" means live. It is your way of life; how you live your life; the sum total of your actions; your daily conduct. Your behavior.
 1. For example, "Walk your talk."
 2. **Ephesians 5:15 (HCSB)** "Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk – not as unwise people, but as wise." The CSB translates "walk" as "live". "Pay careful attention, then, to how you live."
 - ii. What does it mean to walk worthy of the Lord?
 1. Live in a way that is consistent with your identity as a Christian. You are a Christian; act like it. What is your identity in Christ? You are child of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Act like it. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you. Act like it. You are a servant of the Most High God. Act like it. You are made in the image

of God. Act like it. You were bought with a price, the precious blood of Jesus. Act like it. This world is not your home; your home is in heaven. Act like it. You have been called to imitate Christ. Act like it. You have been commanded to love God and others. Act like it. You are a witness for Jesus Christ. Act like it. God loves you. Act like it. God is watching and keeping a record of everything you do. Act like it. Live in a manner that is consistent with your identity in Christ. Walk worthy of the Lord.

- 4) The rest of this passage goes into great detail about how to walk worthy of the Lord.

III. THE REQUIREMENT FOR WALKING WORTHY

- 1) The passage begins with a requirement for walking worthy of the Lord. To walk worthy of the Lord, you must have this.

2) Knowledge of the will of God.

- i. **Colossians 1:9** “We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.”
- ii. To walk worthy, you must have knowledge of God’s will.
- iii. **NKJV Study Bible** “The desire to serve God will be in vain without a proper understanding of the One we want to serve.”
- iv. What is God’s will? God’s will is God’s desire. God’s desire for your life; your morality; your sexuality; your vocation; your attitude; your relationships; your finances; your family. God’s will is His desire for the world; all that which God wants to happen in the world – in the government; in the economy; in the community; in the school; in business; etc.
- v. To walk worthy of the Lord, you must be filled with the knowledge of God’s will.
- vi. **2 Peter 1:5** “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge”
- vii. To be a good driver, you must know the rules of the road. To be a good coach, you need to know the rules of the game. To walk worthy of the Lord, you need to know His will. You need to know what He wants. What He requires of you.
- viii. **Thomas Watson** said, “We must know his will before we can do it; knowledge is the eye to direct the foot of obedience. Ignorance is the mother of error.”
- ix. How do we accumulate the knowledge of His will? 2 Ways.
 1. Through the Word of God.
 - a. **1 Peter 2:2** “Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that you may grow up into your salvation”
 - b. To walk worthy, you must study deeply.

- c. Study the Bible daily in your prayer closet. Study the Bible weekly in Sunday church. Study the Bible relationally each week in Home Group.

2. Prayer.

- a. Just as Paul prayed for the church in Colossae to be filled with the knowledge of God's will, we must pray for God to fill us with the knowledge of His will.
- b. Why is prayer necessary? To walk worthy of the Lord requires a special kind of knowledge – "the knowledge of His will with all wisdom and spiritual understanding."
- c. **Colossians 1:9** "We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."
- d. Notice the relationship between knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual understanding.
- e. Understanding is the ability to see how knowledge applies to daily life. A person may know a verse, but not understand how it applies to daily life. They lack understanding. You may know the tenth commandment, "Do not covet," but do you know what it means? Do you understand how to apply it to your life?
- f. Wisdom is actually putting the knowledge into practice. A person may know a verse; and may know how it is meant to be applied to daily life; yet still ignore it. He lacks wisdom. You may understand the tenth commandment, yet still disobey it. Two people may possess the same amount of financial knowledge and understanding. They both know all Dave Ramsey's "Baby Steps." But one person puts them into practice and has financial peace and freedom, while the other is still drowning. The difference is wisdom.
- g. It is not enough to know God's will; to know the Bible. You can know the entire Bible by heart and still not walk worthy of the Lord. The devil knows the Bible far more than all of us put together. Walking worthy requires wisdom and spiritual understanding. And this wisdom and spiritual understanding come not merely through study, but through prayer.
- h. Most commentators agree that the word "spiritual" modifies both wisdom and understanding. The prayer is to be filled with the knowledge of God's will with all spiritual wisdom and spiritual understanding. The word "spiritual" indicates that this wisdom and understanding come from the Spirit. We

must pray for the Spirit to give us not only knowledge, but wisdom and understanding so that we can walk worthy of the Lord.

IV. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WALK WORTHY?

1) Pleasing God fully.

- i. **Colossians 1:9-10** “We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, 10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him”
- ii. To walk worthy of the Lord means to live in a way that is fully pleasing to Him.
- iii. What does it mean to be fully pleasing to God?
 1. We do our best to meet His ever wish.
 2. We strive to make Him happy with us in every way.
 3. “Fully.” Is there any part of your life that God is not pleased with?
 4. Pleasing God is the same idea as finding favor with God.
- iv. What does the Bible say about pleasing God?
 1. Jesus lived to please God. John 8:29 “The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what pleases him.”
 2. It is commanded. Romans 12:1 “Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.”
 3. It is the reason Christ died for us. 2 Corinthians 5:15 “And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.”
 4. It is to be our goal and constant focus. 2 Corinthians 5:9 “Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to him.”

2) Bearing fruit in every good work.

- i. **Colossians 1:9-10** “We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, 10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work”
- ii. To walk worthy of God we must be fruitful Christians. Productive Christians.
- iii. What does the Bible say about fruit?
 1. Fruitfulness glorifies God. John 15:8 “My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.”
 2. God wants us to produce much fruit. John 15:8 “My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.”

3. Fruitfulness verifies your salvation. Matthew 7:20 “So you’ll recognize them by their fruit.” See also Jn 15:8.
 4. Those who don’t produce fruit with go to hell. Matthew 7:19 “Every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”
- iv. What does it mean to be a fruitful Christian? God wants every Christian to produce eight kinds of fruit.
- 1) The fruit of repentance. Turn away from a self-centered, self-pleasing life, to a God-focused, God-please life. Mt 3:8 “Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance.”
 - 2) The fruit of the Spirit – Christlike character. Gal 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control.”
 - 3) The fruit of another Christian – winning someone to Christ. Col 1:5-6 “... the gospel that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world.”
 - 4) The fruit of good deeds. Colossians 1:10 “so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God”
 - 5) The fruit of a productive ministry – making a difference in the cause of Christ. Romans 1:13 “... I often planned to come to you... in order that I might have a fruitful ministry among you....”
 - 6) The fruit of helping others progress in the faith. Philippians 1:22-25 “Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me... for your progress and joy in the faith.”
 - 7) Fruit that will last. Do things that will matter in eternity. Jn 15:16
 - 8) The fruit of praise – a life that praises and glorifies God, and leads others to do the same. Heb 13:15 “Therefore, through him let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.”

3) Growing in the knowledge of God.

- i. **Colossians 1:9-10** “We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, 10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God”
- ii. “Growing in the knowledge of God” is a term that refers to spiritual growth.
- iii. The third way to walk worthy is to grow spiritually. Devote yourself to spiritual growth.
- iv. A healthy child is a growing child; a healthy plant is a growing plant; a healthy Christian is a growing Christian.
- v. Spiritual Growth is commanded:
 1. 2 Corinthians 13:11 “Become mature”
 2. Hebrews 6:1 “Therefore, let us leave the elementary teaching about Christ and go on to maturity”
- vi. God wants us to grow in two ways:

1. **2 Peter 3:18** “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.”
 - a. Grace: Grow in the qualities that are empowered by grace. Christlike virtues.
 - b. Knowledge: Grow in your understanding of the truth, and in intimacy with God.
- vii. How to grow spiritually:
 1. We cannot cause growth. We can only create the conditions that are necessary for growth. God will take care of the rest.
 2. The conditions for growth are called the means of grace, or spiritual disciplines.
 3. The Means of Grace:
 - a. Bible Study. 1 Pt 2:2
 - b. Private prayer. Col 4:2
 - c. Reading Christian literature. Pr 2:3-5
 - d. Corporate worship. Col 1:28; Col 3:16
 - e. Fellowship with other believers. Pr 27:17
 - f. Service. Gal 5:13
 - g. Evangelism. Acts 1:8
 - h. Tithing. Deut 14:23

4) Being strengthened with God’s power.

- i. **Colossians 1:10-11** “10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might”
- ii. To walk worthy of the Lord you must rely upon God’s strength, not your own.
- iii. This is what it means to be filled with the Spirit. Eph 5:18
- iv. Why must we rely upon God’s strength?
 1. Apart from Christ we can do nothing. **John 15:5** “I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.” The victorious Christian life is impossible apart from God’s strength.
 2. With God’s strength we can do what is humanly impossible. **Philippians 4:13** “I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.”
- v. How to rely upon God’s power?
 1. God’s power is bestowed through the means of grace. Prayer, Bible study, corporate worship. Abide/remain in Christ. Stay close, and fruit happens. John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because

you can do nothing without me.” When we forget the means, we forfeit the grace.

2. God’s power is cut off when we live in sin. Eph 4:30 “And don’t grieve God’s Holy Spirit.” 1 Thess 5:19 “Do not quench the Spirit.” A general does not give supplies to the enemy. President Trump doesn’t send supplies to help Isis. God does not give strength to those who rebel against Him.

5) Endurance.

- i. **Colossians 1:11** “being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience”
- ii. Endurance has to do with adversity. It means to do what is right despite adversity.
- iii. You will face problems in life. The only question is how will you respond. God wants you to respond to your problems with endurance.
- iv. The Greek word for endurance literally means to stay under. The idea is to stay Christlike, stay on mission, stay close to God when you are under the weight of adversity.
- v. Think of an endurance runner, an athlete who specializes in long-distance races like the mile, the 5K (3.1 miles), or the marathon (26.2 miles). An endurance runner is able push through muscle fatigue, thirst, windedness, cramps, and joint pains, and to keep running until he crosses the finish line. Consider a boxer. A boxer with endurance is the one who keeps fighting until the final bell, regardless of the pain in his lungs, the weakness in his legs, the sweat in his eyes, the jeers of the crowd, and the blood streaming down his face. The Christian with endurance is able to do what is right regardless of the circumstances; no matter how hard life gets.

6) Patience.

- i. **Colossians 1:11** “being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience”
- ii. What is the difference between patience and endurance?
 1. Endurance is how you respond to problems. Patience is how you respond to problem-people.
 2. Endurance is staying Christlike in difficult circumstances. Patience is staying Christlike with difficult people.
 3. Endurance is the opposite of giving up; of quitting; of compromising to lessen the pain of problems.
 4. “Patience is the opposite of wrath or a spirit of revenge. It speaks of even-temperedness, the attitude that in spite of injury or insult does not retaliate (Expositor’s Bible Commentary).”

- iii. The word patience means slow to anger. It is to have a long fuse. The patient man does not lose his temper. The patient man gets angry, but he controls his anger, rather than letting his anger control him.
- iv. Patience in the Bible is often found alongside forgiveness. Colossians 3:12-13 “12 Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive.”
 - 1. The patient man forgives.
 - 2. The patient man is kind to those who hurt him.
 - 3. The patient man does not seek revenge. He does not retaliate.
 - 4. The patient man does not harbor resentment and bitterness in his heart.
- v. We live in a society that says to be nice to those who are nice to you. Respect those who respect you. But if someone insults you, or disrespects you, then you have the freedom to reciprocate. And if they say something really offensive to you, then you have the right to get physically violent. This is not Biblical ethics. This is not Christlike behavior. This is not patience.
- vi. **Romans 12:17-21** “17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful thought to do what is honorable in everyone’s eyes. 18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God’s wrath, because it is written, Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord. 20 But If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. For in so doing you will be heaping fiery coals on his head. 21 Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.”

7) Thankfulness.

- i. **Colossians 1:11-12** “being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints’ inheritance in the light.”
- ii. Walking worthy of the Lord does not just apply to your actions, but also to your attitude.
- iii. What kind of attitude is worthy of the Lord? “Joyfully giving thanks to the Father.”
 - 1. God wants you to have an attitude of joy. Phil 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”
 - 2. God wants you to have an attitude of gratitude. 1 Thess 5:18 “give thanks in everything; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
- iv. Why do we joyfully give thanks to the Father?

1. **Colossians 1:12** “giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints’ inheritance in the light.”
2. The Father has enabled us to share in the saints’ inheritance in the light – which is salvation; eternal life. Jn 3:16
3. Just as God gave the Israelites the inheritance of the land of Canaan, He has given all those who believe in Christ the inheritance of salvation.

V. CONCLUSION

- 1) Are you a Christian? Then you must walk worthy of the Lord. Either change your name, or change your ways. You are a walking advertisement for Christianity. Walk worthy.