

SERMON: Walk Worthy of Your Calling!

TEXT: Ephesians 4:1-6

Introduction: Eph. 4:1 marks a turning point (ch. 1-3, ch. 4-6). Paul is making a transition from Doctrine to Duty; Creed to Conduct; Exposition to Exhortation. "Worthy" (Gk. *axios*) – axiom, "to be of equal weight."

- 1. **CONTEXT** (v.1a): "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord"
- 2. **COMMAND** (v.1b): "beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called"
- 3. **CHARACTER** (v.2): "with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love"
- 4. **CHARGE** (v.3): "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"
- 5. **CELEBRATION** (vs.4-6): "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Con: Ephesians 1:3—Thank You God for All Spiritual Blessings! (MNP)

SERMON: Five Anchors that Stabilize our Soul!

TEXT: Acts 27:29

- 1. **GOD is our Anchor** - Acts 27:24 *"Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee."*
- 2. **FAITH is our Anchor** - Acts 27:25 *"I believe God."*
- 3. **CONVICTION is our Anchor**—Acts 27:25 *"it will turn out exactly as I have been told."*
- 4. **PERSEVEREANCE is our Anchor** - Acts 27:31, *"except you abide in the ship."*
- 5. **STRENGTH is our Anchor** - Acts 27:33, *"take meat."* Our soul needs spiritual food like our body needs nourishment.

Conclusion: Anchors hold; they hold our soul! (MNP)

► **A sermon is not a club that beats upon the will but a sword that cuts to the heart.** ◀

SERMON: God's Amazing Grace! **TEXT:** Titus 2:11-14

- 1. **Learning** - "teaching us." The instructional value of God's Grace is unmatched.
- 2. **Leaving** - "denying ungodliness and worldly lusts." God's Grace demands we leave certain practices behind.
- 3. **Living** - "we should live sober, righteously & godly in this present world." God's Grace demands that we have a Holy existence.
- 4. **Looking** - "looking for the blessed hope and appearing..." God's Grace focuses our attending on Christ's Second coming.

Conclusion: Learn, Leave, Live and Look demands responsibility and accountability. 📖

Pulpit Preview is sent for the purpose of sharing sermon ideas & useful illustrations. It is sent via email each month. Editor: Mark N. Posey D.D., preaching minister for the Austinville Church of Christ (2833 Danville Rd. SW Decatur, AL 35603) since 1994. Please send all comments to—pulpitpreview@austinvillecoc.org or address above. **Thanks, MNP.**



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The Significance of Bible Classes

C.J. Garner said, "as the Sunday School goes, so goes the congregation" (quoted in *Balance* by Ira North, pg.64). The Bible School program of any congregation is one of the most important and significant aspects of growth and development. How seriously most Christians take Bible Study will be reflected by their desire and participation in a weekly Bible class. Ira North said, "The congregation that goes all out for its educational program, encouraging every member to attend, and providing the proper incentive, motivation and training for its teachers will be the congregation that will look forward to healthy growth" (Ibid). AMEN! Jerry Joseph, preacher in Tiptonville, TN, believes in Bible Classes, and says the following about their significance...

- 1. **Bible Classes PROMOTE the work of the Church.** Bible classes are an avenue through which the Word of God can be taught. We certainly want to take advantage of every opportunity to teach and study from the Bible (2 Tim. 2:15; Ps. 1:1-3).
- 2. **Bible Classes PROVIDE a way for the elders "to feed" the flock.** Paul said, "the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God..." (Acts 20:28). Peter declared the same in 1 Peter 5:2. Through our Bible classes we are helping the elders carry out their work.
- 3. **Bible Classes PRODUCE tomorrow's elders, deacons, preachers and teachers.** We want youth to grow up knowing the importance of Christian service. In our Bible classes, we are training soldiers in the Lord's Army. Bible classes help train youth in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6).
- 4. **Bible Classes PREVENT unfaithfulness in the church.** Encouragement to live faithfully is greatly needed! This can be done in our Bible classes. We must take every opportunity to edify (Heb. 3:13; 10:25).
- 5. **Bible Classes PREPARE us for eternity.** The time we actively and faithfully participate in Bible classes will help prepare us for living each day and striving to make Heaven our eternal home (Jn. 8:32; 1 Tim. 2:4).

Question: "What is my attitude toward Bible classes?" This is a question worthy of our consideration. May God bless us with desire, dedication and perseverance in regard to faithful Christian living! Bible classes are significant and important; let's commit to participating in a weekly Bible class!

-Mark N. Posey

SERMON: God's Amazing Grace! TEXT: Titus 2:11-14

Introduction: The Grace of God is one of the greatest subjects in God's Word. We are told the following: We are saved by Grace through Faith (Eph. 2:8), we are to stand in Grace (Rom. 5:1-2), we proclaim the Gospel of God's Grace (Acts 20:24), we must grow in Grace (2 Peter 3:18), we are living in days of Grace (Eph. 3:2), we must abound in God's Grace (2 Cor. 9:8), we must speak with Grace (Eph. 4:29). Grace means, "unmerited favor, gift." It is one of the wonderful attributes of God's character. He is the God of Justice, Mercy and Grace – to name a few of His excellent qualities (1 Pet. 2:9). Justice is getting exactly what you deserve., mercy is not getting what you deserve; but, grace, however, is getting what you do not deserve. What do we learn from Titus 2:11-14: *"God's grace first saves and then trains His people for godliness and good deeds!"*

Discussion: Notice 7 things about God's Amazing Grace from Titus 2:11-14!

1. **The Origin, Source of Grace (2:11a, "for the grace of God").** God is the source, origin, tap root of grace. Grace comes from God.
2. **The Intent, Purpose of Grace (2:11b, "that brings salvation").** The purpose of God's grace is to bring salvation to fallen man.
3. **The Focus, Destination, and Recipients of Grace (2:11c, "has appeared to all men").** God's grace has appeared to all people. Cf. Acts 10:34-35, *"God is no respecter of persons..."* Thus, we sing, "Where sin has gone must go His grace – The Gospel is for all!" AMEN! Paul declared that God's grace was available in abundance to him in 1 Tim. 1:14. Thus, he was the chief of sinners. Paul saw himself in need of what God provided. Cf. SONG: "His Grace Reaches Me!"
4. **The Demands, Requirements of Grace (2:12, "teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age").** God's grace is not some unrestricted, unconditional, ambiguous blanket thrown over the human race so as to allow or tolerate virtually anything that people desire to do. God's grace instructs and demands. The requirements of grace are both negative and positive. **NEGATIVE:** The negative demand is to leave unholy practices behind, such as, ungodliness and worldly lusts. Cf. 1 John 2:15-17. **POSITIVE:** The positive demand is to embrace a lifestyle of Holy Living – with such practices as, sober living (good, clear mind), righteous living (doing those things that are right) and godly living (striving to be like God).
5. **The Expectations, Hope of Grace (2:13, "looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ").** God's grace fills us with the hope of heaven.
6. **The Price, Cost of Grace (2:14, "who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works").** Grace is a free gift (Rom. 3:24), but it was expensive! It cost God His Son (John 3:16), and it cost His Son His life (1 Cor. 5:7). Christ's death at Calvary qualified Him to be our Savior!
7. **The Product, Result of Grace (2:14, "that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works").**
 - Christ redeemed us from every lawless deed! I.e., The word redeem would have gotten the attention of any slaves. It was the word used for buying a slave out of the market so as to give him his freedom.
 - Christ purified us to be His own special people who are zealous of good works! I.e., He bought us from the slave market of sin and washed off our filth with His blood. Now we belong to Him as His personal possession.

Conclusion: God's Grace is Amazing. Remember the song – Amazing Grace: "Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch life me!" cf. Acts 20:32.

- Mark N. Posey

SERMON: Living East of Eden!

TEXT: Job 1:3, *"His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east."*

Intro: In Genesis, when people go "east," they leave the land of blessing (Eden and the Promised Land) and go to a land where their greatest hopes turn to ruin (e.g., Babylon and Sodom); except one!

Discussion: Living East of Eden is Paradise Lost and dreaming of regaining Paradise! There is one that is symbolic of hope – JOB!

1. Adam and Eve are cast out of the Garden to the east (Gen. 3:24).
2. Cain is expelled from the presence of the Lord and goes east (Gen.4:16).
3. People move east in the direction of Babylon and build the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:2).
4. Lot divides from Abraham and takes the best lands toward the east (Genesis 13:11).
5. The Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are in the east and Lot pitches his tent in their direction (Genesis 13:11-13).
6. Israel leaves Sinai and moves east (Num. 10:5) shortly to disobey God and wander in the wilderness for 40 years (Num. 13-14).
7. Job, however, is "the greatest of all the men of the east." He is a sense of hope in God. He is a righteous man even though he lives in the east (Job 1:1-5). He suffers significantly and "maintains his integrity" (Job 2:3, 9).

Conclusion: Living East of Eden is an indication of sin; however, there is hope in the life of Job. He is the greatest man in the East! (MNP)

SERMON: Satan has a Big Fat Nose!

TEXT: Job 1:6 (cf. 2:1), "and Satan also came among them."

Intro: The Hebrew phrase indicates that Satan was present but uninvited! There are many areas where Satan is present but has not been invited.

1. **FAMILY:** Satan is not invited in my marriage, home, family or children!
2. **FAITH:** Satan is not invited into my mind, heart or soul!
3. **FELLOWSHIP:** Satan is not invited into my congregation, worship, Bible class, devotional life, prayer meeting, gospel meeting, VBS, Summer Series, Lectureship, etc.!
4. **FOUNDATION:** Satan is not invited into my understanding, knowledge, study time, meditation, evangelism, edification or benevolence!
5. **FUTURE:** Satan is not invited into my walk, behavior, conduct, direction or destination!

Con: Apply the instruction of James: "Resist the devil and he will flee from you!" (MNP)

SERMON: Satan, going here and there!

TEXT: Job 1:7 (cf. 2:2; 1 Peter 5:8).

Intro: Satan is a murderer, deserter and liar from his beginning (John 8:44).

1. Satan is cunning, more so than any other animal (Genesis 3:1).
2. Satan is deceiving, more so than any created being (2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:14).
3. Satan is dishonest, more so than any human (John 8:44).

Conclusion: Act like Job: he "shunned evil!" (MNP)