**September 3, 2017 “Walk in a Manner Worthy of the Calling” Ephesians 4:1-6**

As I have told you before, the Book of Ephesians is divided into two parts. The first three chapters all deal with what God has done for believers. Those chapters describe all the blessings that are ours in Christ Jesus.

Then in the latter verses of chapter 3, Paul lays out for us the design for victorious Christian living.

1. Strengthened with the power of the Holy Spirit… in the inner man
2. In order that Christ may dwell in your hearts
3. In order that you may be rooted and grounded in love
4. In order that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God
5. In order that God may do far more with your life than you ever thought possible

Now Paul transitions into the second part of the book and the main subject line is this: “walk in a worthy manner”. In other words, now that you know all that God has done for you as described in chapters 1-3… put that knowledge into practice in every aspect of your life.

I want to stop there for just a moment to remind all of us of the difference found in the O.T. and the New. While there are many to be sure the main thing I want to emphasize is that in the O.T. you will over and over again this theme: “if you follow my commandments I will bless you”.

In the N.T. you will find this theme over and over again and it is this: “I have blessed you with everything you will ever need pertaining to life and godliness, now please live your lives accordingly”.

How do we do that?

Colossians 3:1-4… set your mind

Romans 12:1-3… transform you mind

Psalm 119:9-11

Psalm 119:33-40

1. The prisoner of the Lord
   1. Paul was in prison in Rome
      1. How could he say he was a prisoner of the Lord?
         1. Paul had a unique perspective of life
         2. He only saw things in the light of how they affected the Gospel of Jesus Christ
   2. This is how that view affected his life
      1. II Corinthians 11:24-12:9
      2. Set your mind on things above
         1. It wasn’t the hardships
         2. It wasn’t the revelations
         3. It was that the power of Christ would dwell in him
2. I implore you
   1. “Arakeleo” to call someone with intensity, to plead with them
      1. To beg someone to stop
         1. Drinking
         2. Drugs
         3. Gambling
3. To walk
   1. Main theme of the second part of Ephesians
      1. Ephesians 4:1
      2. Ephesians 1:17
      3. Ephesians 5:1-2
      4. Ephesians 5:8
      5. Ephesians 5:15
      6. Ephesians 6:10-20… walking in warfare
4. “Walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called”
   1. Cement these things in your mind
      1. John 15:16-17
         1. Is there an intensity in your heart and mind
         2. To plead with them for their salvation
            1. Children, grandchildren, in-laws and outlaws
            2. Friends, neighbors, co-workers
      2. I Corinthians 1:26-31

Beloved we are the chosen people of God… I implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called.