

98-03-27c

Again, if you turn to Ephesians chapter 5 and verse 1, Therefore, be imitators of God as dear children, and do what? Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. On down in verse 15 of that same chapter, See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. The first time I was in a verse-by-verse study of Ephesians was up in Tulsa with the pastor of our church at the time, and I remember very clearly his illustration of walking circumspectly.

He said, you know, when you're out in the barnyard, and if there have been cattle there recently, and you're going to walk across the barnyard, you have to walk circumspectly so you don't step in something. And walking circumspectly means exactly that. We have to watch where we're walking and not step in something.

We don't turn to the right hand or to the left. We don't let ourselves be distracted or deflected from the calling to which we have been called. Not as fools, but as wise.

Now, if you're going to walk as a wise person and not as a foolish person, how do you do that? Well, a wise person knows how to walk and knows where to step. It only takes one... We used to have visitors at home who would come up and want to go out and see the horses and see the cows, and who lived in the city most of the time, and who had one pair of blue jeans that they would put on to come out and visit, and it was always kind of comical because we had chickens and we had cows and we had horses, and inevitably it would seem that these would come back and be looking around for a brush or a stick or something because they had stepped in something and just weren't in the habit of watching for those little smelly hazards, which is also one of the reasons that I had to start keeping my chickens up. I think people got tired of all the little opportunities to step in something.

See that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. Because all of us have opportunities in life to make a misstep. There are temptations, there are areas of life where we know we can't afford to get entangled, and we walk circumspectly.

That's how we maintain the walk that God has called us to. In Colossians chapter 1 and verse 10, it's one of my favorite chapters in the New Testament, Colossians chapter 1, Paul talking to the congregation at Colossae, For this reason we also, since the day we heard of your faith and your hope and your love, do not cease to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. What a great prayer to pray for fellow believers, to ask God for those believers to be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

That's how you can walk as the wise. That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully

pleasing him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might according to his glorious power for all patience and longsuffering with joy, giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. All of that hinges on the worthy walk.

In Colossians chapter 4 and verse 5, Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. And that implies that the answer varies.

We don't always give the same answer to each one. That's a part of that wisdom in which we walk. 1 Thessalonians chapter 2 and verse 12, As you know, in verse 11, we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians chapter 4 and verse 1, Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God. For you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. Hebrews chapter 11, verses 5 and 6, that great chapter of faith.

By faith Enoch, our subject this morning, was taken away so that he did not see death and was not found because God had taken him. For before he was taken he had this testimony that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him.

For he who comes to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. Enoch is the example. Enoch's life is the occasion for the author of Hebrews to make this statement in Hebrews 11, verse 6. It's the walk of faith that pleases God.

Without faith he's not pleased. He can't be pleased. He that comes to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.

What a great testimony for Enoch. And then finally in the New Testament, our greatest discussion of walking is perhaps in 1 John chapter 1. John declares these things, that you also may have fellowship with us. In 1 John 1, 3, our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.

In verse 6, if we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship each with the other. And this is not with one another in terms of fellow believers.

This is fellowship with God and God has fellowship with us. And the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. In chapter 2 and verse 6 of this same book, he who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

You remember the great example in the life of Jesus Christ. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. So Enoch in the central place in this line of Seth has this role of illustrating the importance of walking with God and the reward that God gives to those who do walk with Him.

And Enoch walked with God and he was not, for God took him. Now there were others that walked with God as we've seen, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and so forth, and they were not taken in this unusual manner. Why Enoch? Why is Enoch taken? Well, there are some fascinating observations we can make about this.

For example, we have the upcoming flood that we're going to study in the next chapter or two. And Enoch's not around for that. Enoch leaves the scene several years before this cataclysm and this judgment on the earth.

Many passages of Scripture, we don't have time to look at them this morning, but you know in the books of Peter and in Jude where it talks, and Jesus Himself when He's talking about the last days, and He says, as it was in the days of Noah, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day that the flood came. So it will be in the last times. And I am indebted to Dr. who was the one with the raspy voice back in the early 60's.

Had the radio program. He wrote a book called Portraits of Christ in Genesis. And in that book, I'll think of it here in a minute.

He pointed this out, which I think is a wonderful illustration in the life of Enoch. Enoch in a way pictures the rapture of the church prior to God's judgment in human history. In the same way that you have Noah and his family who are preserved through the judgment, the way the Jewish believers in that seven year period, many of whom are martyred and others are preserved through and survive the tribulation period.

Noah and his family stand in for them. But Enoch in his supernatural evacuation of the area pictures the rapture of the church. And it's another piece of evidence in Scripture that supports our understanding of the pre-tribulational rapture of the church.

So we have that as well. But the most important lesson perhaps in looking at this is you remember the tolling bell of death in this chapter. He lived this many years.

He had sons and daughters. He had his firstborn son and so forth. But in the case of Enoch, suddenly you have death no longer exercising its power.

Enoch walked with God and death didn't get him. The power of death has been broken. What a great hope set forth early in the Old Testament, early in the books of Moses, that there is the possibility of escaping the clutches of death, the power of death.

You remember what Paul says in Romans. The sting of death is sin. And the strength of

sin is the law.

Quite an odd statement to associate the law which is just and right and holy with the sting of death which is sin. What is the antidote? What is the escape? What is the means of deliverance from the power of sin and the power of death? It's walking with God. Enoch walked with God and the power of death can't touch him.

The power of death can't sting him. God is stronger than death. And early, just as you have that promise that the seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent, you have in Enoch, in Enoch's example, that hope that through pursuing, walk with God and relationship with God and the presence of God, this is the answer to the curse.

This is the answer to the fall. God is greater and God's power is greater than the power of death. And not only can we look to the words of Jesus Christ, the one who believes in me will never die.

We say, well, we all die. Not really. Not in Christ we don't.

And there are many different kinds of death. We can have a life that bears fruit. We can have a life of production in spite of the fall, in spite of sin, in spite of failure, in spite of great train wrecks in our life like David had.

We avail ourselves of God's grace. God's power is greater than sin. God's power is greater than death.

And Enoch is a great light, a great torch of hope in the early pages of the Old Testament that death is not going to reign. Paul says in Romans, death reigned from Adam to Moses even over those who did not sin after the manner of Adam. But you have this wonderful hope set forth in the life of Enoch.

And it's a hope that we should cling to and make a part of our faith and a part of our walk that the power of God that comes into our lives through the Word of God and through the Spirit of God is greater than sin, is greater than death. And God's promises will be fulfilled to us. And we will be heirs of those promises through faith and the righteousness that comes through faith.

Let's close in prayer. Father, we thank you for the wonderful truth that you have revealed to us in so many different ways in Scripture. We find wonderful truth in poetry and in prophecy and in narrative.

And we find great principles of truth even in the record of fathers and sons and genealogies. We pray to God the Holy Spirit will take these things and use them to transform our souls, to build us up in the faith and to enable us to walk the worthy walk, the walk that is pleasing in your sight and that reflects and brings credit to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray these things in his name.

Amen.