

THE LOWLY WALK OF A HIGH CALLING
EPHESIANS 4:1-3

TODAY WE ENTER INTO THE LAST HALF OF THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS. THE APOSTLE PAUL, CHAINED TO A ROMAN GUARD UNDER NERO, POURS OUT ONE OF THE MOST THOROUGH DEPICTIONS OF THE THEOLOGY OF THE CHURCH. THE BOOK OF ACTS IS THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AND EPHESIANS IS THE THEOLOGY OF THE CHURCH. PAUL ALSO WROTE PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS, AND PHILEMON WHILE INCARCERATED IN ROME. HE DISPLAYS WHAT HAPPENS TO A BELIEVER IN CHRIST JESUS WHEN THEY ARE TRULY BORN AGAIN. FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD IN CONDUCT AND ATTITUDE AMIDST ADVERSITY. THIS TURNS OUR MESS INTO OUR MESSAGE. BY DECLARATION, PAUL IS NOT A PRISONER OF ROME (OR HIS CIRCUMSTANCES) BUT A PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST. HE REMINDS US THAT EVEN IN THE HARDEST OF TIMES WE CAN BE PRODUCTIVE AND EFFECTIVE TO OTHERS AROUND US FOR THE GLORY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR. NOTHING IS WASTED IN CHRIST, NOTHING. IN CHAPTERS 1-3 OF EPHESIANS, PAUL EXPLAINS THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "IN CHRIST". WE ARE BLESSED WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING , WE ARE CHOSEN-BLAMELESS-FORGIVEN-REDEEMED-SEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT- SPIRITUALLY ALIVE-SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH-WE ARE UNIFIED AS ONE BODY-CITIZENS IN THE KINGDOM-NEAR TO GOD-CHILDREN OF GOD WHO MAY APPROACH THE FATHER WITH FREEDOM AND CONFIDENCE-WE ARE HIS PEOPLE WHO ARE ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE-

WE HAVE THE POWER OF THE ALMIGHTY LIVING INSIDE US
ENABLING US TO GRASP HOW WIDE AND LONG AND DEEP THE
LOVE OF CHRIST IS FOR US-AND FINALLY, WE ARE NOW ABLE
TO KNOW THIS LOVE THAT SURPASSES ALL HUMAN
KNOWLEDGE AND FILLS US TO THE MEASURE OF THE FULLNESS
OF GOD. AMEN!

WE PICK IT UP TODAY IN CHAPTER 4. PAUL NOW SHIFTS FROM
DOCTRINE TO DUTY, PRINCIPLE TO PRACTICE, CALLING TO
CONDUCT, BELIEF TO BEHAVIOR, OUR WEALTH TO OUR WALK.

Ephesians 4:1 NIV

4 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life
worthy of the calling you have received.

PAUL REMINDS HIS READERS THAT HE IS A PRISONER
IS HE LOOKING FOR EMPATHY? NO, HE IS REMINDING US THAT
THERE IS A COST TO WALKING WITH JESUS

PAUL IS NOT ASKING US TO DO ANYTHING HE WASN'T WILLING
TO DO, JESUS DOESN'T EITHER

URGE/PARAKALEO/TO BEG, PLEAD CONTINUALLY

LIVE A LIFE/PERIPATEO/WALK, THE CONDUCT OF ONE'S LIFE

THERE IS A "GENERAL CALL" WHICH IS GIVEN TO EVERY
CREATED CREATURE UNDER HEAVEN

"EFFECTUAL CALL" WHEREBY GOD SECRETLY IN THE USE OF
MEANS AND BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS OUT OF

MANKIND A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PEOPLE, THAT HE ELECTED BEFORE THE BEGINNING, TO BE ALIVE IN CHRIST FROM SPIRITUAL DEATH, CAUSING A DESIRE TO LOVE AND LIVE FOR JESUS INSTEAD OF WORLDLY PURSUITS

RECEIVED/KALEO/INVITE, SUMMON (BASED ON WHO IS CALLING, A FRIEND INVITES AND A KING SUMMONS)

THE REVELATION IN CHAPTERS 1-3 MUST GET FROM YOUR HEAD TO YOUR HEART

WHO YOU ARE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT YOU DO

Ephesians 4:2 NIV

² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

PAUL DOES NOT LIST DEEDS, HE LISTS CHARACTER TRATES
PAUL LISTS THE VERY MORAL ATTRIBUTES THAT CHRIST EXEMPLIFIED PERFECTLY

HUMBLE/TAPENOPHROSUNE/HUMILIATION OF MIND,
WITHOUT ARROGANCE

Galatians 5:22-25 NIV

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions

and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

BEING HUMBLE IS BEING CHRIST CONSCIOUS AND SELF AWARE.
AWARE OF OUR SIN NATURE AND CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
DO NOT COMPARE YOURSELF TO OTHER PEOPLE

Matthew 5:3 NIV

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

THE WORD WILL EXPOSE WHO YOU REALLY ARE...WE COMPARE OURSELVES TO JESUS THEN REPENT IN OUR HUMBLING

Philippians 2:3-8 NIV

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:⁶ Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

BEING HUMBLE IS LIVING A LIFE CRUCIFYING THE EGO

BEING GENTLE IS NOT BEING WEAK, IT IS POWER UNDER CONTROL...MEEKNESS

Philippians 4:4-5 NIV

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Matthew 5:5 NIV

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

PATIENT/MAKROTHYMIA/INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONTROL IN A DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCE/DELAYED ACTION

Proverbs 14:29 NIV

²⁹ Whoever is patient has great understanding,
but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.

Proverbs 16:32 NIV

³² Better a patient person than a warrior,
one with self-control than one who takes a city.

LORD KNOWS THIS WILL TAKE PRACTICE

BEARING/ANECHOMAI/TO PUT UP WITH, ENDURE

WE ARE TO TREAT EACH OTHER WITH AGAPE (THE LOVE OF GOD)

1 Peter 4:7-11 NIV

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 4:3 NIV

³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

EVERY EFFORT/SPOUDAZO/EAGER, DILIGENT, INTENTIONAL,
ONE SPIRIT, ONE PEOPLE OF THE SPIRIT

BOND/SYNDESMOS/SINEW (A LIGAMENT HOLDING MUSCLE TO
BONE OR BONE TO BONE)

Philippians 4:6-8 NIV

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ

Jesus.⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

SO, WE HAVE A CRITERIA TO LIVE BY...IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS THAN TO DO ANYTHING

THE DO-PART WILL FLOW OUT OF US AS A RESULT OF OUR OBEDIENCE TO HIS NATURE

GOD IS WAY MORE CONCERNED WITH WHO WE ARE THAN WHAT WE DO

END