

A Christ-Filled Walk

Aaron Beard
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Text: I Peter 1:13-25

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Before obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - 1. One is in darkness (sin), does not live under the direction of the Word, is w/o Christ – a slave of sin!
 - 2. Although many take this pathway, he is still walking ALONE in darkness
- B. When we become Christians, we all of that changes – (Meaning of Christian)
 - 1. One is in the light, he lives under the direction of the Word, has Jesus Christ – A slave of righteousness!
 - 2. He is now living his life walking with Jesus Christ
- C. If our walk is filled by Jesus Christ – there will be certain qualities that should stand
 - 1. I want to look at these qualities as laid out by Peter in I Peter 1:13-25
 - 2. As we look at each one of these we need to:
 - a. Examine our own lives to see if we are living as we claim to be
 - b. See if there are any areas that we need to improve upon – if so we must do it!

I. Walks Wisely – (I Peter 1:13-14)

- A. Before coming to Christ the way one walks is very unwise
 - 1. It is first unwise because they are walking without Jesus Christ! - **EXPOUND**
 - 2. One's walk is also usually unwise for other reasons
 - a. One has baggage that weighs them down
 - b. One may not prioritize their life as well
 - c. One may make many unwise decisions
 - 3. This changes when one obeys the gospel of Christ
- B. A Christian who walks with Christ walks wisely because he girds up his loins
 - 1. What this means → Someone about to travel or work picks up garment & tucks it in around waist
 - a. This is done so movement is not impeded
 - b. One who does this exhibits an attitude that they “are rolling up their sleeves”
 - c. Illustrate: Two Men and a Truck – HUGE house – zipped off pants – moved things in way
 - 2. Christians need to do this
 - a. They get anything that would impede their movement out of the way
 - b. This might be some sin – or it could be something that is not, but just gets in the way
- C. He also walks wise because he uses his time wisely
 - 1. **Ephesians 5:15-16**
 - 2. A Christian's life is an industrious life
 - a. A Christian realizes that value and importance of time – so he works heartily
 - b. A Christian knows that his time here on earth is sooo limited – You understand this!
 - 3. Because of this, a Christian will walk in wisdom - takes advantage of any time (**EXPOUND**)
 - 4. Look at the last few verses of **I Peter 1 (verses 24-25)**
- D. His walk is wise because he does not walk ignorantly
 - 1. **Romans 1:18-21, 28** – Gentiles had opportunity to know God – God revealed Himself via nature
 - a. They did not recognize God as they walked
 - b. They even pushed Him out of their minds
 - 2. There is a chasm of difference between a lack of knowledge and **WILLFUL IGNORANCE**
 - a. Some Christians push God out of their minds by not studying His word
 - 1) They knew enough to obey the gospel – and they are happy staying there
 - 2) They willfully don't want to know because they know it will involve CHANGE!
 - b. Some push God out after knowledge (Seed that fell on stony ground)

- 1) Start thinking about what they need to do less and less – might even rationalize
- 2) Eventually they forget their need to respond in obedience to His word

E. We can look to Christ for how to walk wisely in this world

1. Jesus always had His Father's will first and foremost in His mind – **Luke 22:41-42**
2. Jesus recognized the preciousness of time – how little he had
3. He recognized the influence the way he walked had on other people
 - Knew although the whole world be dark, as long as He was around there was light shining!
 - **John 9:4-5** – What a wonderful example for us to emulate!!!

II. Is Holy As God Is Holy

A. As He led Israel, God often emphasized His holiness

1. The children saw on every hand nations bowing down to various gods
 - a. God knew this would be a stumbling block to them so He showed the vast difference
 - b. *Discuss various differences*
2. The surrounding nations would often absorb the qualities of the gods they served
 - a. Keep in mind that these were qualities that they created in their own minds
 - 1) Because of this, the gods were restricted to being just some “idea”
 - 2) Because of this, the gods would have characteristics mirroring their creator's wants
 - b. The nations would then be full of homosexuality, fornication, murder, theft, etc.
 - 1) They worshipped these gods and took on their attributes
 - 2) This was the reason for so many cities being corrupt – For example, Corinth
 - c. You see, humans shape themselves after what is NUMBER ONE in their life

B. God expected His people to be “Holy” – set apart from the nations around them

1. This is because Israel had a God and a law that was different from all others
 - a. **Deuteronomy 4:5-8**
 - b. This was God's special people, peculiar from all other – They Served A LIVING GOD!
2. He commanded them to be set themselves apart from all the other nations
 - a. When Israel was about to enter Canaan, they were given directions concerning this
 - b. **Deuteronomy 7:1-6**
 - 1) He didn't command this because He hated the other nations
 - 2) He knew that if they intermingled with them, they would become like them
 - 3) They would no longer be “set apart” – they would not be a “Holy People”
3. God called the Israelites to an extremely high degree of holiness
 - a. **Leviticus 19:2, 4; 20:7** - He told them, “You be set apart just as I am set apart!”
 - b. There was to be just as much difference between them and the surrounding nations as there was between God and the gods that those nations served!
 - c. The other nations should be able to look at them and EASILY know who they served!
 - d. Now that is one high degree of HOLINESS!

C. God Has The Exact Same Calling For Us Today

1. **I Peter 1:14-16**
 - a. Do those words sound familiar? His calling of Holiness has never changed
 - b. God says, “As I apart from all others am set apart, you also be set apart!”
 - c. He wants us to shape ourselves after what is number one in our lives – HIM!
2. We sometimes see ourselves as having attained this calling when we really haven't
 - a. We suppose that as long as the world can see some slight difference, then we are HOLY
 - 1) We do not take into account that the world has to squint REAL hard just to see this tiny amount of difference
 - 2) We develop a desire to be as much like the world as possible, while still being a little different
 - 3) You may even be persecuted just a little bit for the slight difference you make
 - a) This does not ensure your HOLINESS!

- b) Some people out there will poke fun for even the slightest difference
 - b. We keep our being “set apart” very slight because we don’t want to LOOK PECULIAR!
 - c. Christians do this all the time!
 - 1) Modesty – our clothes might be SLIGHTLY looser or SLIGHTLY longer
 - Judgment call, but the judgment made reflects the degree of holiness we want
 - 2) Dancing – I will go to Prom, but I will just go to get my picture taken
 - 3) Language – I just laugh at the jokes, I never tell them – I just use substitute words
 - 3. THIS IS NOT THE HOLINESS TO WHICH GOD CALLS US!!!!
 - 1) YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SQUINT TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JEHOVAH AND THE GODS AND DESIRES THIS WORLD SERVES!
 - 2) The difference is OBVIOUS! – Night and day
 - 3) So it should be with us and the world
- D. There are many great blessings found in walking in God’s holiness
- 1. Isaiah refers to this way of walking as a Highway of Holiness (**Isaiah 35:8-10**)
 - 2. This walk brings joy, happiness, security – Something all of us want
 - 3. The most important thing is where this highway leads – STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN!

III. Lives Reverently (**I Peter 1:17-21**)

- A. This Bible is packed full of things that seem to be paradoxes to the world
- 1. The beatitudes – mourn (comforted), meek (inherit earth), persecuted (kingdom of heaven)
 - 2. To one who is not looking through an eye that is spiritual, these things might not make sense
 - a. Because on the physical side, who wants to mourn, be meek, or be persecuted?
 - b. It is the one who knows God who realizes this is no paradox at all, it makes perfect sense
 - 3. Another great paradox is found in verse 17 – **LIVE OUT STAY HERE IN FEAR.**
 - a. This might even seem contradictory to one who is somewhat of a Bible student
 - b. **I John 4:18**
 - c. This is a different type of fear all together
 - 1) This fear is one that is self inflicted, and staying that way is your choice!
 - 2) This fear is based upon the fact that you are not prepared to meet your God
 - d. A Christian has no reason to have this fear at all – this is not the same type of fear
- C. Peter is speaking of a fear that causes one to LIVE REVERENTLY toward God
- 1. Explain fad while in High School → No Fear
 - a. There is an attitude one attempts to set forth in promoting this slogan (**Romans 1:21-22, 28**)
 - b. What was disappointing is to see Christians wear these shirts
 - 1) The attitude it shows is one of disrespect towards God – lack of reverence!
 - 2) It shows a Christian who wants to be “Partially Holy”
 - c. I know of at least ONE person(s) you need to fear!
 - 2. God deserves and demands our reverence (fear) toward Him - *EXPOUND!!!*
 - 3. Our society is one that is losing all reverence for God
 - a. We have all heard the attempts made at taking God out of our nation
 - 1) He doesn’t have to be taken out in word to already have been taken out in deed
 - 2) Our society has decided not to “retain God in their knowledge!”
 - b. If we are to change this attitude, we are going to have to start it here – family and church
 - 4. Don’t think this hasn’t crept into the churches and our families
 - a. People seem to not understand the need for reverence in our worship to God
 - 1) Denominational advertisement... “Are you bored with old fashioned worship...”
 - 2) Appeals have been made to make our bible studies FUN and Entertaining so....
 - b. On the family level we do not like to “retain God in our knowledge”
 - 1) God is pushed away and other activities are put in their place
 - 2) Rafting example – LISTEN, that shows the measure of our devotion to God!
 - Vacations – Hotel Room Services or not at all – LS (not done collectively)
 - The saints in that area NEED you and you need them

- B. This fear of God and reverence toward Him will also cause one to **KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS**
1. Some Christians will work to show obedience is necessary for salvation at baptism, but after that, at least through their lives, they work to show that it is not necessary at all!
 2. A Christian will obey God because **HE HAS SEEN HIS SALES RECEIPT!!!**
 - a. If this doesn't motivate a Christian nothing will - **(I Peter 1:18-19)**
 - 1) Sometimes when we buy gifts we do not let the recipient see the sales ticket
 - 2) God says, "YOU NEED TO LOOK AT IT EVERY DAY!"
 - b. Why it motivates us to continue in obedience...
 - 1) Because of appreciation for what Jesus did for ME!
 - 2) Because of a desire to do take advantage of what He did for Me!
 3. **Hebrews 10:26-29**
 - a. Our reverence (fear) for the blood of the lamb causes us to always FEAR His blood
 - b. There are some, who after initial obedience, disregard the blood of the Lamb
 - 1) They go back into sin and reject Jesus sacrifice
 - 2) They hold no reverence for the blood of Lamb – or they wouldn't behave that way!
 4. When we consider the sales receipt of our purchase, we should DESIRE to obey and fear God!
 - a. On that ticket is the undying love, grace, and selflessness of God
 - b. On that ticket is the fervent work of the Holy Spirit
 - c. On that ticket is the blood – the most precious blood ever! Highest price ever paid!
- C. You will obey God also because you **KNOW** the alternative – **AND THIS YOU GREATLY FEAR!**
1. **Luke 12:4-5**
 - a. It is this part of God that we do not like to think about
 - b. Because God is loving, merciful, gracious, and just – He PUNISHES!
 - b. Realizing this fact makes me want to act in complete obedience to Him in all things!
 2. **II Thessalonians 1:6-10**
 - a. I do not want to be in the classification of "Those who know not God and do not obey Him"
 - b. You cannot know God without obeying Him – the two go hand in hand
- D. If you live like this, you will have no need to have the other type of fear
1. That is, fear of God's wrath and indignation on the Day of Judgment
 2. **I John 4:18**
 - a. This is made really clear when you talk to a Christian who KNOWS they KNOW Him
 - b. They have no fear of death – In fact, they are ready for it
 3. **I John 5:2-3** – Tells us exactly how we can have this perfect love– ITS THROUGH OBEDIENCE!
 - a. Our obedience to God