

SERIES: 'WALK WORTHY'- -12/1/24 (#5) PASTOR LEE

- Pastor Lee 'sets the stage' for today's Message:
- We started this Series in Ephesians a number of weeks ago....dead center in the Book... with a theme of WALKING WORTHY according to the calling you have in Christ, Jesus.
- Reverting, then, back to the beginning of the Book, we focused on what Jesus has done for us-and therefore-we live our lives in a worthy calling *because* of what He's done for us.
- Paul writes this Book to a group of both Jews and Gentile believers-the 'circumcised' and the 'uncircumcised'-placing the Jews at the center with a goal that they would reflect God's glory to the rest of the world, thus drawing non-Jews to Him. Unfortunately, the Jews-as a group- insulated themselves from the rest of the world and created myriad rules around God's commands, leaving everyone else feeling distant from God.
- That was *never* God's plan....but His plan was to send Jesus- -making ALL people who believe. right with God- -and in doing so- -establishing a foundation to unite us.

Eph 2: 11-22 - - Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— (12) remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of Promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (14) For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility (15) by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, (16) and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby killing the hostility. (17) And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. (18) For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. (19) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, (20) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone. (21) in Whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. (22) In Him, you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

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- V-11...."**Therefore Remember**"- -a common scriptural phrase- -modifies/builds on the words prior: " For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works....."
 - Pastor Lee, referencing the Bible's frequent calls 'to remember' cites the story of Joshua leading his people through the parted waters of the Jordan River....which, having done

- so, directs the leaders of the twelve tribes to each send a man back to the middle of the River and retrieve a stone...with Joshua setting up the 12 stones as a remembrance/ memorial of God's miracle for the benefit of future generations(Joshua 3:14 - - 4:18)
- **Metaphorically, we all are the beneficiary of 'parted waters' in our lives (God'S grace and intervention)...and need to instill these remembrances in our own families' mind sets. (In parallel, that's why we're calling our newest Church Project "TWELVE STONES"). In the same way, Thanksgiving Day.....represents an opportunity to remember, in some special way, our blessings!**
 - **Communion is paramount as a remembrance and connection with God....via the symbolic bread and blood of Jesus linking such to His Body that would be hung on the Cross and His Blood that would be shed.....for us.....lest we ever forget!**
 - **Meditate on this....and what He's done for you in your lives, this year and even this week. And remember that there was a time when you were separated from God.**
 - **Back to today's Scripture and the notion of Jews and Gentiles being the equal beneficiaries of Christ's redemptive power and promise, see Romans 9 (particularly: :22-33). This was radical to the Jews who relished their history, their Covenants, their laws and rules, their priests; they perceived that, then and forevermore, they were singularly separated and saved as a nation..... God's chosen people.**
 - **Though now and here-forward, as the Jews had to digest, there was no more separation! Salvation was available to all the faithful! And there was UNITY IN CHRIST.**
 - **While it was our sin that separated us, it was always God's plan to send Jesus to bridge the gap between us/our sinful nature and His Perfect Self.God came to us!! SALVATION IS NEVER ACHIEVED.....IT IS RECEIVED!!! We can't earn it...we don't deserve it... salvation is only via the grace of God through Jesus....Who took our sins upon Himself by the shedding of His blood (See V-13).**
 - **This is why we say 'WALK WORTHY'.....in honor and remembrance of God's gift of salvation available to ALL of us through Christ, Jesus.**
 - **In our common connection with God as believers, there is also unity in Him and in His Holy Spirit which is here to guide us all. As an example and notwithstanding our cultural, national and divergent backgrounds, this genuine, real sense of unity fills and permeates in our Church.**
 - **V-14- ".....for He, Himself, is our peace...." YOUR PEACE IS THROUGH JESUS!!! INDEED, JESUS IS YOUR ANSWER TO EVERYTHING!!! Appreciating that, it becomes easier and natural to 'WALK WORTHY' a Christ-follower....and to be 'right with God'.**
 - **Examples: When you find forgiveness in Jesus, NOW you can forgive others.....When we experience the fullness of Jesus' love, NOW, we can love others....when we are united with God, NOW, we can be united with each other. (See V 15-22). We come to Jesus individually, but corporately, we are united in Jesus.**

Hebrews 10: 11- -And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. (12) But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, (13) waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet. (14) For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. (15) And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, (16) "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," (17) the He adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." (18) Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

- **Re; V-11.....the same sacrifices over and over....discouraging!....and never final!
.....versus, in V-12-18....where you see its all about Christ's sacrifice....'one and done'!
Everything changes...the "Good News (Gospel). Jesus dies on the Cross to take the punishment we should receive.....He was buried...rose from the grave victorious over death and sin....and has paid the price for sinand that Resurrection is God's stamp of approval/acceptance.....now, He works on our hearts and changes us ("WALK WORTHY").**

SALVATION RECEIVED

UNITED IN CHRIST

HE IS THE ANSWER!

WALK WORTHY!

