

NEW SERIES: 'WALK WORTHY' - -11/3/24

PASTOR NATE

- **PREFACE:** Before introducing our new Series, Pastor Lee takes opportunity to reiterate the story of Zacchaeus- -emphasizing 1. Jesus' intent to seek and save the lost; and 2. Zacchaeus' radical transformation from wicked chief tax collector to devout believer....one whose rebirth in Jesus causes him- -without any request/prodding, to be a 'mind-blowing' giver (ie. 50% of his earnings....400% repay of fraudulent activity).....from a mongerer consumed by money to- -spontaneously- - a devout and repentant follower of Christ... focused on Him....not personal wealth.
- In that context....Christ-followers have a radical view on money/generosity...unique in this world. Like Zacchaeus, Christians want to be a conduit for Christ....using money to positively impact people rather than themselves. Pastor Lee recognizes and praises the generosity of our Church (eg. 15 new Senegal churches...new Mexico-based seminary, KIDZ Town, Christmas shoe boxes, etc, etc.). Each project has had incredible returns!
- **New Project:** an outdoor recreation and group area, playground, amphitheater, etc. For this and a new roof...cost is projected at one million dollars. We can write the story of our Church's next generation today, all in the name of spreading our faith in Christ. Pastor Lee encourages contributions.

- **NEW SERIES:** Pastor Nate...making reference to Tuesday's Elections and contrasting to this event....suggests we sometimes we make life's smaller/daily issues (school, jobs, family, etc.) the biggest focus of our lives...looking, in effect, at the 'micro' of our lives... not the 'macro'. In doing so, we all resort to coping mechanisms (ie. fight or flight).....neither of which necessarily works for us. The alternative: take the path to 'WALK WORTHY'....as Jesus would want us to do.
- That takes us to the Book of Ephesians, focusing first on Chap 4 where the writer, Paul... has a pivotal transition from the first half of the book to the second. This is the point where we come to understand the Book's purpose...that is, to present the real solution to our life's dilemmas....and that is: to 'WALK WORTHY'.

EPH 4:1-6- -I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, (2) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, (3) eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (4) There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— (5) one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

- Paul is addressing a group of Churches in and around the city of Ephesus (Asia-Minor) ((modern-day Turkey)) all of which he, himself, founded.....representing the advent of what we know today as the world-wide body of Christian churches.

- With the pressures facing these early/young believers who've deviated from the norm culture/belief systems (IE. ROMANS, GREEKS)...there was pressure....with the natural temptation to 'fight or flight'.....thus Paul's advise to ignore these instincts and, instead, 'WALK WORTHY' - - or the equivalent: 'LIVE WORTHY'....worthy of the 'calling'.
- We struggle with the notion of worthy....yet, that 'measuring up' to a standard is what we are called to do. And what is this standard/calling? We will study this in our Series but, in short, it is the 'calling' of God on our life...to have faith in Him ...to walk with Him and be saved by Him (Jesus).
- The 'Calling' is to come out of the darkness....into the Light...God call into our lives....His Call is that we turn to Jesus...with focus and obedience. The theme: we have a calling on our lives...and...we need to live our lives in light of this Calling.

Ephesians Study:

- Addressed, in Chapters 1-3, are: Our Calling; Doctrine; and Truth.
- Addressed, in Chapter 4:1 is: "Walk worthy of the Calling to which you have been 'called'.
- Addressed, in Chapters 4-6, are: How to WALK WORTHY; Practice; Actions
- Consider.....Things that lay a large claim in our hearts and upon our lives heavily dictate our action(s). As an example and in the secular way, the Military may try to CAPTURE your core focus and make a big claim on your life...as might your job, etc. So....taking that to a whole new level as a paramount and WITH CHRIST AS THE CENTERPIECE OF YOUR LIFE, how do you place *that* into action? How do you align yourself with what Christ has called us to be?!
- Repeating V-2: as we live the challenges of life, do we have a true sense of peace, gentleness patience and humilityor.....do we see pride, harshness, frustration, dvision. WE *want* to WALK WORTHY.....but.....so difficult. How? By walking with the Spirit as Paul addresses. Its the Spirit, in Jesus, that can join us together with harmony.
- One Spirit, One Body , One Hope , One Faith, One Faith, One Baptism, One God.....we will study how we take these Gifts and use them in our daily lives.
- National elections: Pastor Nate urges us all to vote and to strongly consider the policies of candidates and their relative alignment with our Christian/biblical principles. The privilege of voting is a Godly blessing! VOTE!

WALK WORTHY!!!