

# How Then Should We Live?

Long Beach Alliance Church • January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**THEREFORE I, THE PRISONER  
OF THE LORD, IMPLORE YOU TO  
WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY  
OF THE CALLING WITH WHICH  
YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED...**

**~EPHESIANS 4:1 (NASB)**

## **1) So What?**

- A) We have spent the better part of the last couple of years studying some key portions of the Bible. Our first study together, from the Gospel of John, taught us many great and important lessons about Jesus Christ and the gospel.
  
- B) After John, we headed into the seven churches of Revelation. This was a helpful series for understanding what God has called the church to be while waiting for the return of Jesus Christ.
  
- C) After Revelation, we took a long trip back to the book of beginnings, Genesis. Genesis gave us a picture of how God has been at work from the very beginning of time in reaching out to His people with the promise of the Messiah.

D) Interspersed between these key series have been some "special" seasonal preaching series on the Song of Solomon, Easter, Worldwide Missions, and Christmas.

E) So what? So we have progressed through some big sections of Scripture and talked about everything from Creation to the Apocalypse... What difference does it make? Are we different people, changing people, growing people?

## 2) In Light Of Scripture, How Then Should We Live?

- A) God has called us to "walk in a worthy manner" which is consistent with being called as a child of God (Ephesians 4:1). We carry the name of God in our lives, we are followers of Christ, and should walk/act accordingly!
- B) Christ-followers are called to adopt a lifestyle of worship (Romans 12:1). Our whole lives are to be lived in a "worthy" manner of worshipping God!
- C) Where does this begin? Clearly we must be transformed (Romans 12:2) by the Word of God. Scripture itself is the beginning point for the follower of Christ! It is the essence of our relationship with Jesus Christ (Hebrews 4:12-16).
- D) Knowing God through the Scriptures is our first calling (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17)! In fact, it is the content of our salvation!
- E) Salvation by justification through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, His deity, and His substitutionary death and resurrection (Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:3-4, 11-20) are ALL indispensable for salvation (Romans 3:24-26). Reducing salvation to something else

violates Scripture, is not the Gospel of Christ, and should be condemned as heresy (Galatians 1:6-10).

F) How do we know this? Through the truth, which is the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12). What is our first calling as followers of Christ? Know and live the truth, God's Word (John 17:17)!

## 3) Is That It? Is There More?

- A) Remember, we are talking about a LIFESTYLE of worship (Romans 12:1-2). The Word of God describes what the life of the Christ-follower should "look like." The Word leads us to "spiritual practices" or "disciplines."
- B) Initially this will lead us to three key approaches to God's Word. First, we are called to know and understand God's Word in a profitable manner (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:14-17). This means we are to study God's Word, not just read it!
- C) Secondly, we are to meditate on God's Word, to think about it, contemplate it, "chew" on it, and repeatedly read it in order to help us live by it (Psalm 1:2; Joshua 1:8). This is not some sort of "far out" practice, but a response to the goodness of God's nourishing Word (Psalm 119:103).
- D) Thirdly, we are called to memorize God's Word, to "hide it" in our hearts (Psalm 119:11), to be able to recall God's Word from memory (Luke 4:1-13).

## 4) Where Can I Start? Do I Have The "Right" Bible?

- A) GREAT QUESTION! There are so many versions of the Bible! It's confusing! Oh look, out of space... Maybe next week...