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THE WALK OF THE CHRISTIAN

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
NUMBER 56
EPHESIANS 5:15-16

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EPHESIANS 5:15-16 "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

These verses give the solution to the problem of the scar tissue that forms on the soul of the believer who stays out of fellowship and who refuses to learn doctrine.

In verse 14 we studied the two admonitions:

1. Awake thou that sleepest (Be aware of doctrine).
2. Arise from the dead (Rebound and stay in fellowship).

Then we saw the result which comes from following these two admonitions Christ shall give thee light. (Light always comes when we learn doctrine and when we stay in fellowship.)

EPHESIANS 5:15 "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise," The word for "see" is "blepo" and it is a present, active, imperative and it means "always and all the time be alert." It is not optional, it is a command. The word for "walk" is a present, active indicative of "peripateo" and it means moving forward. It means response. Walking forward in learning doctrine is always the activity of the Christian.

The word translated "circumspectly" really means "accurately." It comes from "akribos." So this phrase says, "Keep on walking accurately." Now in order to walk accurately, you have to know the rules, so let us take a look at the doctrine of walking.

THE DOCTRINE OF WALKING

1. Walking is used to refer to that activity in the Christian life which refers to activity, service, accomplishment.
2. Walking requires one step at a time. Just like living the Christian life requires living one day at a time. We find this in Romans 14 and in Ephesians 5:16. "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

3. Let us look at the mechanics of walking.

Anyone who has ever had an accident or illness which required the experience of learning to walk again can understand this better. It is a very difficult experience to learn how to walk again. In walking, when you move from one foot to the other, for one split second, you are off balance as you move from one foot on the ground to the next. When the foot hits the ground again, then you are back in balance. Now the Devil wants to keep us off balance just as much as he can, so he interrupts our Christian walk just as many times as possible. You see, the Devil is a coward so he hits us when we are off balance and tries to destroy the effectiveness of our walk completely. This is the way the Devil attacks Christians today. Once Christ was the main target for the Devil, but when Christ left the earth and was seated at God's right hand, then we became his main target. In this way the walk of the Christian takes cognizance of the angelic conflict.

4. There are three spheres in the walk of the believer.
 - a. Walk in doctrine. 3 JOHN 3 "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth."
 - b. Walk in the Holy Spirit. GALATIANS 5:16 "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."
 - c. Walk in faith. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:7 "(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)"
5. Walking is described as "Being filled with the Spirit."
 - a. The filling of the Holy Spirit (As given above).
 - b. Walk in love. EPHESIANS 5:2 "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."
6. Walking is used as a description of the Edification Complex.
 - a. Walking in the light. 1 JOHN 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." The light is the reflected glory of the Edification Complex. Satan can counterfeit many experiences but he can't counterfeit the Edification Complex.
 - b. Walk in the newness of life. ROMANS 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."
 - c. Walk honestly as in the day. ROMANS 13:13 "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."
 - d. Walk worthy of the Christian vocation. EPHESIANS 4:1 "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,"
 - e. Walk worthy of the Lord. COLOSSIANS 1:10 "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;"
 - f. Walk in good works (This means divine good).
7. Walking is a description of doctrine in the mind. This doctrine you know in your mind must be applied to your daily walk. Your spiritual I.Q. is determined by the doctrine you know.

Then Paul goes on to say and "walk not as fools" and the word is "asophos," but walk as wise, and the word is "sophos." The "sophia" means truth, doctrine. There is the fool who says, "No" when truth is given out. He refuses to come when truth is taught, or he closes his ears when he does come and says to himself, "It's not important anyhow." Then there is the fool who learns something intellectually but he won't transfer it into his human spirit so he can have it on the launching pad ready for use when it is needed. So this verse commands us to store doctrinal truth in the human spirit so we can use it and apply it to experience.

EPHESIANS 5:16 "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."
 This is the verse that tells believers they are to live one day at a time. The word "redeeming" is "Ex agarizo." "Ex" means out from and "agarizo" means to buy. It means to have enough capital to be able to function under the system of capitalism. God in grace has provided the capital, enough for us to operate on. This tremendous capital is doctrine in the Word of God. We learn that doctrine and store it in the soul and we call it residual doctrine. This is the only capital which is adequate for buying one day at a time. You can't buy for the tomorrows, just for one day at a time. "Give us this day our daily bread." This word "redeeming the time" is the same word they used for buying slaves out of the slave market. So it is used to show how Christ bought us out of the slave market of sin by his cross.

The word translated "time" here is "Kairos" and it means an era. We are calling 1976 "The year of excitement" so we can say 1976 is a "Kairos" it is an era, a segment of time. It happens to have 366 days in this "leap year." How many days will you give to the Lord in 1976?

Then it says, "Because" the days are evil. It doesn't mean the days themselves are evil, but it refers to the intensification of the angelic conflict. The days are evil and it means they are always this way. There will be no change in this condition until Christ comes again. Days will keep on being evil because Satan is the ruler of this world.

So this verse says that we are to purchase our era, for each day is going to be evil from the standpoint of the fact that the Devil is the ruler of this world.

THE DOCTRINE OF ONE DAY AT A TIME

1. When a believer learns doctrine and develops an edification complex, he comes to regard every day alike.
ROMANS 14:5-6 "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks."
 This rubs out the idea of holy days.
2. Each day is a grace gift from God.
 You can purchase these days by--
 - a. The filling of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Allow grace to function in your life.
 - c. Have Bible doctrine in your mind.
 - d. Erect an edification complex in your soul.
 Anything else than this is a cheap substitute.
3. The days come once and never return.
PSALM 90:12 "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." This means "cause us to understand our days."

JAMES 4:13-15 "Go to now, ye that say, To day or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." This means to cause us to know how to organize our days. We are to live our days up to the full--they never come again.

4. God provides operating capital to make each day count for him. This capital is called "more grace."
JAMES 4:6 "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."
 In James 1:21 it is called the engrafted word.
JAMES 1:21 "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."
5. Every day is a special day for the Christian.
JOHN 11:9-10 "Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him." This does not mean that Sunday is not a peculiar and set-apart day.
6. Each day the believer must avoid mental attitude sins.
PROVERBS 27:1 "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." Mental attitude sins will destroy you. Avoid them and overcome them.
7. While we are in this world is God's only chance to demonstrate his love and grace to us under circumstances of suffering and trouble and pressure.
PSALM 102:1-3 "Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee. Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call answer me speedily. For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned as an hearth."

Suppose you live to be 80. And suppose you were converted at 10. This means you have just 70 years to glorify God. So you just have 70 years when you may have trouble and suffering for in eternity there will be no suffering and trouble. So the next time suffering or trouble comes to you, just remember this--this is the only time when God has a chance to demonstrate how he can care for you in trouble. AND CARE FOR YOU HE WILL.

So, Christian--LIVE ONE DAY AT A TIME AND LIVE EVERY DAY AS UNTO THE LORD.