

Message Five

Walking in the Truth and by the Spirit for the Fulfillment of God's Eternal Purpose

Scripture Reading: 2 John 1-2, 4; 3 John 3-4; Gal. 5:16, 25; 2 Tim. 1:9

I. To walk worthily of God's calling is to walk in the truth—2 John 1-2, 4; 3 John 3-4:

- A. *Truth* in 2 and 3 John denotes the divine reality of the gospel, especially concerning the person of Christ as revealed in John's Gospel and first Epistle:
 - 1. Christ is both God and man, having both deity and humanity, possessing both the divine nature and the human nature, to express God in human life—John 1:14; 14:9-11; 1 John 1:1-2.
 - 2. Christ accomplished redemption with divine power in human flesh for fallen human beings so that He may impart the divine life into them and bring them into an organic union with God—John 1:29; 3:14-16; 15:4-5; 1 John 2:2.
- B. We need to have the truth wrought into us and constituted into our being—1:8; 2:4; 2 John 1-2, 4; 3 John 3-4:
 - 1. To be constituted with the truth is to have the intrinsic element of the divine revelation wrought into us to become our organic constitution.
 - 2. The solid truth that is constituted into us becomes in us a constant and long-term nourishment—1 Tim. 2:4; 4:6.
 - 3. We need to pay the price to learn the truth—Prov. 23:23.

II. To walk worthily of God's calling is to walk by the Spirit for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose—Gal. 5:25; Eph. 1:11; 3:11:

- A. In Galatians 5:16 and 25 there are two kinds of walk by the Spirit:
 - 1. In verse 16 *walk (peripateo)* means to deport oneself, move, and act in ordinary daily life, implying a common, habitual daily walk—Rom. 6:4; 8:4; Phil. 3:17-18.
 - 2. In Galatians 5:25 *walk (stoicheo)* means to walk according to rules—to walk in line, to march in military rank, to keep in step and, thus, to walk in an orderly, regulated manner—6:16; Acts 21:24; Rom. 4:12; Phil. 3:16.
 - 3. Both kinds of walk are by the Spirit and are regulated by the Spirit:
 - a. The walk in Galatians 5:16 is a general, daily walk.
 - b. The walk in verse 25 is a walk that takes God's unique goal as the direction and purpose of life, and a walk that follows the Spirit as the elementary rule, the basic principle.
 - 4. Every believer in Christ should have these two kinds of walk by the Spirit—vv. 16, 25:
 - a. In the first kind of walk we take the Spirit as the essence of our life in our daily living—v. 16.
 - b. In the second kind of walk we take the Spirit as the path for our way so that we may fulfill God's purpose and reach the goal of our life on earth—v. 25.

- B. Because God is purposeful and seeks to reach His goal, He charges us, first, to have a walk by the Spirit that builds up a proper daily living and, second, to have a walk by the Spirit in line with the divine rules and principles to reach the goal established by God—Eph. 4:16; Rev. 21:2:
1. God has an eternal purpose, and His intention is that we live for His purpose; thus, our lives on earth are not aimless but have a definite purpose—Eph. 1:11; 3:11; Rom. 8:28; 2 Tim. 1:9.
 2. We have been given life by the Spirit so that we may walk by the Spirit to fulfill God's purpose—Gal. 5:16, 25.
 3. We must have the second kind of walk by the Spirit—a walk to fulfill God's purpose and to reach the goal of our life on earth—v. 25.
 4. The first kind of walk by the Spirit is needed as a support for the second—v. 16:
 - a. To fulfill God's purpose, we need the second kind of walk by the Spirit, but in order to have the second walk, we need the first walk.
 - b. If we do not have the first kind of walk by the Spirit, we are not qualified to have the second.
 - c. A proper daily walk by the Spirit will qualify us and equip us for the second walk by the Spirit, the walk that accomplishes God's purpose.
- C. In order to walk by the Spirit for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose, we must practice living one spirit with the Lord—1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 8:4.
- D. Only by the Spirit can we have a proper daily life, and only by the Spirit can we walk toward God's goal and fulfill God's purpose—Gal. 5:16, 25.

God Has Called Us For His Purpose

1 God has called us for His purpose,
His economy so glorious,
For which He was fully processed;
Consummated now is He.
As the Spirit He indwells us
As our God-allotted portion.
Working out His full salvation,
Making us the same as He is.

Chorus: Oh, may a clear controlling vision of
The Lord's economy direct my heart,
And burn in me until my spirit's wholly set afire!
With spirit strong and active we'll press on
To consummate God's goal—
New Jerusalem! Hallelujah!

2 Jesus lived the God-man pattern,
Set the way for us to follow,
He denied His natural man and
Was obedient unto death.
Once He was the only God-man;
Now we are His duplication,
As the many grains we're blended
As His corporate reproduction.

3 Living out His resurrection
Dying to the flesh and soul-life,
Living by the mingled spirit,
Natural man we will deny.
Now we're living in the Body,
Every day we're overcoming,
Striving for the peak of Zion,
Watching for our Lord's appearing.

4 God and man will have one living
Always in the mingled spirit;
We two are incorporated—
One organic entity!
This the vision of the ages
Will control our daily living
That the Lord may have His Body
Shining as the holy city.