

New Morning Magical – for 8-3-20

Different words, Different meanings, Different messages

Let's look at the last gem in the section we read yesterday. Here it is again in 1 Thessalonians 2:12:

12 to be walking worthily of God, Who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Most of the Bibles you'll find – not all, but most – read “to be walking **WORTHY** of God,” or “in a manner **worthy** of God.”

What I'm about to say may seem nitpicky, but walking worthy and walking worthily are very different ideas. One indicates that you aren't already worthy and the other recognizes that you are, so let's deal with this, because, well, you're worth it!

Probably no one gives the sentence a second thought, which, forgive me, is the problem with reading the Bible: whenever we don't understand what it says, our brains go right past it. If we stop to think a moment, however, we might realize that you cannot be more worthy than the Father declared you to be by virtue of Yeshua's sacrificial death on the cross. In other words, you're ALREADY WORTHY, so to instruct you to walk “in a manner worthy of God,” indicates that the one instructing has no idea what Yeshua accomplished through his death, or what the Father accomplished through His resurrection and ascension. It's as if you haven't yet gained God's favor, so you've really got to impress Him wherever you go and in everything you say and do; as if the Father's grace hasn't reached you, so you've got to prove something to Him to get it.

Walking **WORTHILY** of God simply means behaving as one who **KNOWS** that he or she **IS** worthy. You've already come to a realization of your worth, because of the lengths that Yeshua and the Father have gone to win your heart. As a result, you live everyday in that knowledge and, therefore walk **WORTHILY**; you're a walking testimony, so to speak.

Let's jump all the way down to Chapter 4 of 1 Thessalonians. Here, we'll finish Paul's letter with some final, majorly important insights:

3 For this is the will of God: your holiness.

That's very succinct, isn't it? No ambiguity there. You want to know what the Father's will is for you? Holiness. Now, Paul has some instructions to follow, so that you can be holy:

You are to be abstaining from all prostitution; ***[That's an easy one]***

4 each of you is to be aware of his own vessel, to be acquiring it in holiness and honor,

5 not in lustful passion even as the nations also who are not acquainted with God.

In other words, pay attention to how you use your body honorably, as opposed to the carousing that goes on elsewhere in unbelievers.

Now jump down to verse 11:

11 and that you be ambitious to be quiet, and to be engaged in your own affairs, and to be working with your hands, according as we charge you,

12 that you may be walking respectably toward those outside and you may have need of nothing.

Paul wasn't interested in believers making lots of noise in the world; exactly the opposite. A few days ago, I said that I think this instruction in verse 11 is one of the most important, because it keeps you tightly and properly focused on yourself. God will handle the rest of the world, while any ambition you have should be directed toward being quiet, minding your own business, and occupying yourself; at least as far as your faith in Yeshua is concerned, so *"that you may be walking respectably toward those outside and you may have need of nothing."*

13 Now we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are reposing ***[those who have died]***, lest you may sorrow according as the rest, also, who have no expectation.

14 For, if we are believing that Jesus died and rose, thus also, those who are put to repose, will God, through Jesus, lead forth ***[that is, out of their graves]*** together with Him.

15 For this we are saying to you by the word of the Lord, that we, the living, who are surviving to the presence of the Lord, should by no means outstrip those who are put to repose,

In other words, when the Lord returns, those who are His and still living won't get in front of those who've died.

16 for the Lord Himself will be descending from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the Chief Messenger, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ shall be rising first.

17 Thereupon we, the living who are surviving, shall at the same time be snatched away together with them in clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And thus shall we always be together with the Lord.

18 So that, console one another with these words.

It would be worth putting a bookmark in verses 13-18 of 1 Thessalonians 4. Paul is the only apostle who wrote anything like this, and it's a major revelation that is worthy of committing to memory. What Paul described **WILL HAPPEN**, which is why we don't merely *hope* for it, we **EXPECT** it! This is what salvation looks like: the deliverance of our bodies out from among the dead, or out from the dying condition, and into life eonian, into immortal and incorruptible bodies just like Yeshua's.

That's a good place to stop for today, so until next time,
May Yahweh bless you and keep you;
May Yahweh light up His face toward you
and be gracious to you;
May Yahweh lift His fact to you
and appoint peace for you.

Amen