

SERIES: 'Walk Worthy' - -11/10/24 (#2) PASTOR LEE

- Studying Ephesians....reiterating some of Series Intro of last week and Chapter 4: 1-6, Pastor Lee comments:
 - * Recalls an old friend who always included, in his 'good-bye', the phrase 'WALK WORTHY'.....an encouraging statement that says 'lets live our lives for Jesus!'and he suggests that might be a great 'mantra' for us today.
 - * See Eph 4:"...walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called." As Pastor Nate explained, this is Paul's urged 'pathway for life'....your calling refers to finding your place in your Christian life. Most absolutely important 'calling': see 1 Peter 2: 9- "..... that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"and made right with God.

 - This 1st Chapter of Ephesians tracks with notion of 'calling'....that is....finding your calling....your life place....where you're supposed to be.
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- *Proverbs 27: 8 Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.*
 - **Where you ultimately belong...with optimum satisfactionis only to be found in Jesus....that is your 'home'.....making that actionable is your calling.**
 - Pastor Lee presents a grid (Cathy Koch "Five To Thrive"); which focuses on what, in context to the above, our kids are trying to figure out:
 - * SECURITY: Who can I trust?
 - * IDENTITY: Who am I?
 - * BELONGING: Who wants me?
 - * PURPOSE: Why am I alive?
 - * COMPETENCE: What do I do well?
 - Our focus today, applicable to all of us.....who wants me? Responding to those who want us.....gets to our calling. (Note: Per one survey, 80 % haven't found their calling!). Our ultimate calling is in spiritual realms (Jesus).
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- *Ephesians 1: 3-14 (NLT)- All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. God decided, in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on us who belong to His dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that He has purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins. He has showered His*

kindness on us , along with all wisdom and understanding. God has now revealed to us His mysterious Will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill His own good plan. And this is the plan: At the right time, He will bring everything together under the authority of Christ— everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for He chooses us in advance, and He makes everything work out according to His plan.

- Review this passage....what words/phrases jump off the page at you? How do you eternalize these words? How does it relate to your calling ie. where you belong? Pastor Lee: what's going to matter most is.....amongst all the 'callings, who's called you (to action)?
- He chose us in 'eternity past'why?.....because He wanted to!Irrespective of our undeservingness....but purely by His grace! Amazingly, God sees us as holy in His eyes because of our reconciliation through Jesus!
- And God adopts us into HIS FAMILY.....think about this notion ie. Being first on the outside and then given all the rights and privileges of that family. Pastor Lee makes reference to a secular research study on family systems and attachments that come out of knowing family history (whether biologically yours or not).....Pastor Lee concludes....if you don't have that family attachment or that belonging you long for, you will be unfulfilled.
- That is why we share the stories of Scripture. If we are going to step into the Family of God, there ARE spiritual blessings associated with knowing our God Family story reaching all the way back to the Beginning of time.
- We can all relate to moments in our lives when we face that 'ultimate, severe despair..Pastor Lee counseled such a person last night..... a person who was struggling, in that severe moment....to feel God's trust. We must recognize our God Family history.....going all the way back....the perfection of the Garden....but also including the Fall (the beginning of man's separation from God), BUT ALSO including, ultimately, the Messiah...our Savior....who satisfies our longing to make everything right (AS ONLY JESUS CAN DO). All Scriptural stories, collectively, help us to understand how God works and counsels us in dealing with the present ...the life challenges, urgencies, etc.
- So whether in the 'highs' of your life or in the 'lows' of your life....God is saying: 'you can find your place with Me'. While during the toughest of times, it might be difficult to remember and be mindful of all the wondrous Scriptures stories (including God's miraculous interventions/rescues), produced by HIM, and that is why we talk about them now!!!
- Paul says in Ch 1, all praise to God....rich in kindness, wisdom, love, understanding...and all the while providing, via Christ's authority, a PLAN....that- - at the right time- - will bring everything together in heaven and on earth. AND, in our union with Christ, there is an inheritance (!) In eternal life. So....TRUST HIS PLAN- -JESUS SETS EVERYTHING RIGHT....no matter what the circumstances are in your life at a given moment.

-PRAISE GOD- -TRUST IN HIM-

