

# SERIES: 'WALK WORTHY'- -11/17/24 (#3)

## PASTOR ROB

### PRELUDE READING:

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*Eph 1: 15- 23 - - For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, (16) I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, (17) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, (18) having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints., (19) and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might (20) that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (22) And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the Church, (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

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- **Pastor Rob: We all (believers) value the notion of 'WALKING WORTHY'....and self reflect on what that actually looks like in our everyday life challenges and tensions (we all have them...eg....family, kids, job, etc.). In context, our study of Ephesians is such an essential Book in scripture and so relevant to this question.**
- **Today, we will look at the 'account' of Elijah, the prophet, and how Elijah, facing super pressures, 'WALKED WORTHY' as just one of so many scriptural examples. This is an example of an Old Testament narrative that highlights New Testament truth(s).**
- **Amidst a season of unparalleled ministry success,..... (eg. miraculously producing food for the widow, raising her boy from the dead; see 1 Kings 17: 1-24, etc.) he faces most difficult moment (and a lesson to learn) when he goes up against the wicked King of Israel (Ahab) who lead the people in worshipping a false god named Baal. Elijah, challenges the 450 of Ahab's prophets to a 'dual/demonstration' the results of which (by fire) would show the people that the God Elijah worshipped was, indeed, the True God.....not Baal. Elijah, by facing this challenge with extraordinary courage as well as confidence and faith in His God, the people all come to recognize the true God of Israel. And all 450 prophets are slaughtered. And then the Lord hears Elijah's prayers to end the drought which He does. A ministerial success story!! See account in 1 Kings 18.**
- **The evil and powerful queen Jezebel responds in retribution...messages Elijah of her intent to kill him....and, afraid for his life, he runs. As the story moves on, we see the life lesson Elijah had to learn.**
- **Back to Ephesians, there are applicable principles to learn. In Chapter 1, rather uniquely amongst Paul's Prison Letters, there is no admonition of the people...just praise of their faith in Jesus and love of the saints. Notwithstanding all this praise, paralleling Elijah,**

they too still had something very deep to learn. I.e. Even if they had been walking with Jesus for years, there is still more to learn of Him on a 'heart level'...ie. the essence that is Jesus is inexhaustible....and they (and we) can ALWAYS learn more...and in that process, aid us in our aim and goal to 'WALK WORTHY'!

- Elijah...notwithstanding his close relationship with God and his incredible, miracle-filled ministry, STILL had more to learn about his Lord. If this be the case for Elijah, how much more for us!

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- Pastor Rob takes a moment to pray....that we would come to know Jesus more deeply...as individuals and as a Church and...in doing so....walk more worthy as we go through life (and its challenges) serving Him.

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- Re: V-18: "...the hope to which He has called you....." Echoes the first part of Eph 1..... that the hope He calls us to is found in salvation through Jesus...the foundation of 'WALKING WORTHY' is in realizing the hope we have because of salvation. Hope is so powerful in our lives...transformational...and we need to be constantly reminded. (Eg. tells the 'rat story-experiment' and how their behavior transformed once hope was trained/instilled in them). Rest in your hope; do not be caught off-guard!
- If asked (by a non-believer) : 'What does it mean to be a Christian'?.....keeping it simple, what would be your answer? Answer(s) that embrace putting your faith and trust in Jesus is the right answer.....that's our hope....in Jesus. ( Note: 61 people in ChristFirst did so since the beginning of 2024...over 100 in past two years....these are people with hope!) \* *Writer's Note.....see Hebrews 11:1* \*
- Back to the Elijah story....he had lost hope....ran away....wanted to die...forgetting the hope he had in God...and in his salvation. (See 1Kings 19:3)
- He was caught off-guard.....in an instant.....new challenging situation. Let us, in our own lives, not be caught off-guard....rather, be mindful, always, of our hope in Jesus!
- Back to V-18 and reference to ".....what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints".....so easy to forget just how spiritually rich we are, via our eternal inheritance. The cultural pressure to succumb to the distractions of our short, temporal life is so tempting/alluring.
- So, as we walk worthy we must remember that we are spiritually rich.....with a wealth that is intangible but imperishable! Our security is unfading, indestructible and forever! As compared, this life is a 'drop in the bucket'!!!
- Back to Elijah, after running for his life, he comes to a broom tree...lays down....God cared for him with food and drink. Like Elijah, with all our challenges...sometimes we just need that rest, nourishment and encouragement that only God can give.
- Also, (V-19)....He wants us to remember "...the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe.....". We have the strength that comes from God, His Spirit and His power (Greek: 'DYNAMIS') is available to you. The same power that brought Jesus back from the dead is available to you as you 'WALK WORTHY' in your life!
- Elijah had to learn about real power....sitting on the mount, God brings an incredibly strong wind... then an earthquake, then a fire (none of which, in his faith, disturbed him)....then, finally, he heard the sound of a soft whisper....at which point Elijah knew, that in God's voice, there was 'dynamis'/POWER. And this God speaks to each of us!....we are not alone!...listen!...WALK WORTHY in Jesus! (V 20-23)

**\*\*WALK WORTHY\*\***

