

THE WALK OF ACCURACY (CON'T)

Eph. 5:15 (Prov. 3:5-6)

In our continuing study of “The Walk of Accuracy” we will look at the eighth (8th) of nine (9) particular ways we possess an “understanding of the will of God.” (Eph. 5:17)

It is with an “understanding of the will of God” that we are equipped:

- 1 -- to make the decisions of life
- 2 -- understand the events of life
- 3 -- enjoy the blessings of life
- 4 -- provide service in the process of life
- 5 -- to affirm fulfillment at the conclusion of life

Please keep in mind that our study is not a complete study. I have chosen only nine points out of many for our study.

In many ways these points are inter-related. They are often inter-dependent.

For example, our last study dealt with the principle of having a renewed mind. (Rom. 12:1-2)

In our order of things - that was number 7.

Now for number 8:

8. WE MUST ESTABLISH THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS OF GODLY RELIANCE

- Our key text is Prov. 3:5-6
 - READ Prov. 3:5-6
 - Now the key introduction is this -
 - v. 5 “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart...”
 - Here is an essential ACTION
 - TRUST
 - Here is an eternal OBJECTIVE
 - IN THE LORD
 - Here is an ENCOMPASSING ARENA
 - WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART

-- THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE THINGS WE NEED TO KNOW - WE NEED TO KNOW THAT ESTABLISHED GODLY RELIANCE:

A - Will be contrary to our natural understanding

B - Will demand completeness in our devotion

C - Will establish confidence in our Lord's effective faithfulness

A - A PROPERLY ESTABLISHED GODLY RELIANCE WILL BE CONTRARY TO OUR NATURAL UNDERSTANDING.

-- Prov. 3:5 “---lean not unto your own understanding.”

-- Prov. 3:7 “Be not wise in your own eyes....”

-- This has been quite impossible for a human to achieve.

-- Adam and Eve failed - as they leaned on their own understanding.

-- The Proverbs warn us about our own understanding:

“There is a way which seems right unto as man, but the end there of are the ways of death.” (Prov. 14:12; 16:25)

-- It was when men and women leaned unto their own understanding that the resulting vileness gave to the human race the plagues of homosexuality and lesbianism. (Rom. 1:18-32)

-- The church that leaned unto its own understanding said of itself; “I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.” ...but they heard God say, “I will spit you out of my mouth...because you know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” (Rev. 3:16-17)

-- From the days of Adam there has been a problem with man's desire to trust himself instead of trusting God.

God has been accused of being unreasonable and unfair in such a requirement. Satan lied to Adam about God's motive in the requirement, of asking man to abandon his own understanding and trust God totally.

-- Let me share with you three reasons why God insists on our abandoning our understanding in favor of TRUSTING HIM TOTALLY.

(a) HIS PRE-EMINENT RIGHT

- He owns us - By design - and by construction (creation).
- He repossessed us by redemption.
- He has prior claim to all that we are.

(b) HIS PASSIONATE REASON -

- He knows our lot when we refuse His ways.

He sees the result of sin before we sin.

- “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man. The end thereof are the ways of death.” (Prov. 14:12)

- Rom. 11:33

(1) v. 34

(2) v. 35

(3) v. 36

(c) HIS PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY -

- He is Our Father. It is His responsibility to act Fatherly.
- Our walk of ACCURACY is irrevocably dependent upon the Father’s fulfilling of His Parental Responsibility.
- Note all the reason, compassion, patience, instruction, care, nurture, forgiveness, restoration - etc. that has been manifested by this matchless Father from the dawn of human history.
- What a model He is to us who are fathers.
- We are told as fathers to bring up our own children in the nurture (correction, teaching) and admonition (rebuke, warning) of the Lord.” Eph. 6:4
- In this walk of accuracy it is vital that we have an understanding of the will of God by having a properly established Godly Reliance.

And we need to know that not only will A PROPERLY ESTABLISHED Godly Reliance Be Contrary To Our Natural Understanding, it also

B - WILL DEMAND COMPLETENESS IN OUR DEVOTION

- v. 5 - “with all your heart”
- v. 6 - “In all your ways.”
- God is not a partial God. Neither does He have partial disciples.

The Bible knows nothing of half-hearted devotion.

The cross of Christ upon which we die is neither a partial cross nor does it produce a partial death.

When a person comes to Christ, he/she comes all the way or he/she does not come at all.

- In “the walk of accuracy” which we can take only with an understanding of the will of God, every ingredient of our nature is essential.
 - No piece of us is excused.
 - This is the necessity of the so called “little things” in life.
 - The necessity of the so called “little things in life” is illustrated in the little story:

“For want of the nail, the shoe was lost.
For want of the shoe, the hoof was lost.
For want of the hoof, the leg was lost.
For want of the leg, the horse was lost.
For want of the horse, the rider was lost.
For want of the rider, the message was lost.
For want of the message, the battle was lost.
For want of the battle, the war was lost.
For want of the war, the nation was lost.
For want of the nation, the ALL was lost.

- We must pay attention to the little things of life.
- Our God is a God of completeness.
 - When He brought Israel out of Egypt - He brought them through the Red Sea on DRY ground. (Ex. 14:16,21,22,29; 15:19)
 - When Naaman was miraculously healed of his leprosy, the Bible says that he was not only healed of leprosy, but that “his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child.” (2 Kings 5:14)
 - ILL. (Grandchild commenting on the difference between his skin and that of his grandfather - “God surely makes better skin now than He did when He made yours, doesn’t He, granddaddy.”)
 - When Jesus healed the lame man He not only gave him ability to walk, but to “take up” his bed and walk.”
 - Our God is not a partial God.
 - His love is not partial
 - His power is not partial
 - His holiness is not partial
 - His demands are not partial
 - His disciples are not partial
 - A half hearted , insincere, partial disciple is not a disciple of Christ.
 - When we stand in Judgement - ALL will be judged.
 - All of our Spirit
 - All of our Soul (Mind - Emotion - Will)
 - All of our Body

- All of our schedule (time used, time abused, time wasted.) (v. 16 - "Redeem the time")
- All of our actions.
 - Idle words, hidden thots and "secret sins."
- This God of ours calls us to trust Him with "all of our heart" and "in all of our ways."

In this "WALK OF ACCURACY" (v. 15) it is vital that we have an "understanding of the will of God" (v. 17). If we are to have an "understanding of the will of God" we must have a "PROPERLY ESTABLISHED GODLY RELIANCE"

AND we need to know that A properly established Godly Reliance will not only

- A - BE CONTRARY TO OUR NATURAL UNDERSTANDING and
- B - WILL DEMAND COMPLETENESS IN THE DEVOTION OF OUR LIVES, but that it -
- C - WILL ESTABLISH CONFIDENCE IN OUR LORD'S EFFECTIVE FAITHFULNESS
 - Prov. 3:6 - "He shall direct thy paths."
 - Many are the reasons for CONFIDENCE IN OUR LORD'S EFFECTIVE FAITHFULNESS
 - a. The history of tragedy
 - Look at the history of nations.
 - Look at the tragedies of individuals (homosexuality; aids; marriage outside of the will of God -- God said marriage will be by my design - Man said - Marriage will be by our desire -- divorce; undisciplined parents; rebellious children.)
 - READ AND EXPLAIN Isa. 30:1-3
 - b. The history of Triumph
 - READ AND EXPLAIN

-- ISA. 30:19-21

(esp. v. 21 “and thine eyes shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it, when you turn to the right hand, and when you turn to the left.’”)

-- ILLUSTRATION:

Thursday, June 28, 1787, Benjamin Franklin, delivered a powerful speech to the Constitutional Convention, which was embroiled in a bitter debate over how each state was to be represented in the new government. The hostile feelings created by the smaller states being pitted against the larger states, was so bitter that some delegates actually left the Convention.

Benjamin Franklin, being the President (Governor) of Pennsylvania, hosted the rest of the 55 delegates attending the Convention. Being the senior member of the convention at 81 years of age, he commanded the respect of all present, and, as recorded in James Madison’s detailed records, he rose to speak in this moment of crisis:

Mr. President:

The small progress we have made after four or five weeks of close attendance & continual reasonings with each other--our different sentiments on almost every question, several of the last producing as many noes as ayes, is methinks a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the Human Understanding.

We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running about in search of it. We have gone back to ancient history for models of government, and examined the different forms of those Republics which, having been formed with the seeds of their own dissolutions, now no longer exist. And we have viewed Modern States all round Europe, but find none of their Constitutions suitable in our circumstances.

In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding?

In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for Divine protection.--Our Prayers, Sir, were heard, & they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor.

To that kind Providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?

I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth -- that God Governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice,, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?

We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that “except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.” I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by

our partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and by word down to future ages.

And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by Human wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest.

I therefore beg leave to move--that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service.

The response of the convention to this speech of Benjamin Franklin was reported by Jonathan Dayton, the delegate from New Jersey:

The Doctor sat down; and never did I behold a countenance at once so dignified and delighted as was that of Washington at the close of the address; nor were the members of the convention generally less affected. The words of the venerable Franklin fell upon our ears with a weight and authority, even greater than we may suppose an oracle to have had in a Roman senate!

** (AMERICA'S GOD AND COUNTRY, Encyclopedia of Quotations, ed. William J. Federer, FAME Publishing, Inc., Coppel, TX © 1994, p. 247-249)

-- But in Considering the Reasons for Confidence In Our Lord's Effective Faithfulness, not only is there

(a) The history of Tragedy and

(b) The history of Triumph, there is also

c. The History of Trash

-- Any one, any nation who refuses the effective faithfulness of God is opting for a pattern of life that is sick, repulsive and destructive.

-- When God promised Israel that He would "be very gracious unto the voice of their cry" (Isa. 30:19)

He also instructed them:

- Isa. 30:22 "Ye shall defile the covering of your graven images of silver, and the ornament of your molten images of gold: and you shall cast them away as a menstruous (DAVEH = Strongs NO. 1739 & 1738) cloth; you shall say unto it, 'get thee hence.'" (Away with you.)

-- Think of this -- a person or a nation which opts for “counsel that is not of God” opts instead for that which is on the value level of a menstruous cloth.

-- This is the “trash” for which our nation opted in its determination to become a porno protecting, Bible rejecting, morality murdering, material mongering society which chooses to lean on its own understanding.

America is now experiencing the savage ravage of the menstruous cloth.

-- In considering the Reasons for Our Lord’s Effective Faithfulness, not only is there

(a) The history of Tragedy and

(b) The history of Triumph and

(c) The history of Trash, there is also

d. The History of Truth

-- Prov. 3:6 “He shall direct your path.”

-- Psa. 32:8 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you shall go, I will guide you with my eye.”

Such is an Understanding of The Will of God -

and such is a requirement for the walk of accuracy.

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THE WALK OF ACCURACY (CON'T)

Eph. 5:15

We come now to the ninth (9th) consideration of our understanding of the will of God as a vital matter in our Walk of Accuracy.

It is this: HASTE OR WASTE

HASTE = CHUWSH (pron. KOOSH) = from the primitive root “to hurry,” to be eager with excitement or enjoyment, to be ready.

- Our Hymn has taught Readiness in the Will of God.
 - “Ready to go,
Ready to stay,
Ready my place to fill;
Ready for service,
lowly or great,
Ready to do His Will.”
- Psa. 119:59-60 “I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto your testimonies. (The Walk of Accuracy) I made haste, and delayed not to keep your testimonies.”
- Very simply - The Will of God delayed is the Will of God disobeyed.

God is not only on a schedule, His is on time.

- Whether we are talking about the prophecies of Isa. and Daniel (which have spanned centuries), or the prophecies of the end of time (which have spanned millenniums), or the protective timing of placing Esther in the court of Ahasuerus (which was timing by months) or of Stephen meeting the Ethiopian in the desert (which was timing by minutes)- We need to know that God is not only on a schedule, HE IS ON TIME.
- In our Walk of Accuracy we must have an understanding of the Will of God, and in this understanding we must know that timing is essential to integrity - and the matter is HASTE OR WASTE.

THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE MATTERS TO CONSIDER:

I - THE EXAMPLES FOR US -

II - THE PROBLEMS WITHIN US -

III - THE DEADLINES BEFORE US -

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I - THE EXAMPLES FOR US -

1 - ABRAHAM

-- Read GEN 12:1-4

-- v. 4 - "So Abraham departed...."

2 - PHILIP

-- ACTS 8:26-27 "And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip saying, Arise, and go toward the south, unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went...."

3 - PAUL

-- ACTS 16:9-10 "And a vision appeared unto Paul in the night; there stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, come over into Macedonia, and help us. v. 10 - And after he had seen the vision, immediately we (Luke, Silas, Timothy, Paul) endeavored to go into Macedonia."

Now in our understanding of immediate obedience - or HASTE OR WASTE, there are not only

-- THE EXAMPLES FOR US,
there is also

II - THE PROBLEMS WITHIN US

1 - The Problem of Presumptive Action -

-- Prov. 19:21 "There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand."

-- 2 Peter 2:9-10 "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished: but chiefly

them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.”

- It was presumption that caused Peter to pull the sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. (Lk. 18:10-11)
- But not only is there the problem of presumptive action, there is also

2 - The Problem of Post-poned (delayed) action.

- Lk. 9:57-62 (READ)

(1) Failure in THE DENIAL OF PERSONAL COMFORT

- v. 57-58

(2) The Assumption of DUTIES WHICH BELONG TO ANOTHER

- Lk. 9:59-60 “Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father.” Jesus said, ‘Let the dead bury their dead:....’

(3) The DISTRACTION OF OUR ATTENTION FROM DIVINE PURPOSE -

- v. 61-62 “I will follow you; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house (family members). And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of GOD.”

But Not Only in This Matter of Immediate Obedience - or HASTE or WASTE, are there

I - EXAMPLES FOR US, and

II - PROBLEMS WITHIN US, there are also

III - DEADLINES BEFORE US -

1 - THE ERROR THAT WILL BE STOPPED.

- PROV. 29:1 “He that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”

2 - THE OPPORTUNITY THAT WILL NOT LAST.

- Jeremiah preached about it - “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” (Jer. 8:20)
- Jesus preached about it - “Do not say, there are yet four months and then cometh the harvest.” (John 4:35)

3 - THE LIFE THAT WILL SOON BE OVER.

- As Christ delays His Return, we will all soon say: “The time of my departure is at hand.” (2 Tim. 4:6)
- The Bible asks: “What is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanishes away.” (James 4:14)
- No wonder the faithful say, “I made haste and delayed not to keep your testimonies.” (Psa. 119:59-60)
- But we “make haste” not only because of
 - 1 - The Error That Will Be Stopped
 - 2 - The Opportunity That Will Not Last
 - 3 - and The Life That Will soon be over, but also because of

4 - THE JUDGEMENT THAT WILL SOON BE FACED.

- The Bible says that He (God) hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness...” (Acts 17:31)
- Rom. 14:10 “We shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ.”

There are deadlines before us in this walk of accuracy...We cannot delay our obedient response to the Will of God.

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