

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for April 24, 2022

Sermon Notes

Graciously Saved to Live Radically Different

Ephesians 4:1-24 (pew Bible pgs. 977-978)

We just spent the past three Sundays looking back at the cross, at the substitutionary redeeming work of Christ. The cross and the empty tomb were our focus - and that remains our focus again as we get back into our study through Ephesians. We are in the middle of Ephesians - and as Christians we are in the middle of our journey to heaven. By that, I mean we are in between the beginning of our salvation and the culmination of it. Salvation begins with our justification - when God declares us righteous as we by faith trust in the substitutionary sin-bearing, redeeming work of Christ on the cross. The final step of our salvation will be our glorification, when Christ returns and we are raised with a resurrection body like his. We are in between those two points - and that in-between is the Christian life.

The life we are called to live now is the subject of this section of Ephesians. In Ephesians 1, Paul declares that God “chose us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before him” (Eph 1:4). Holy and blameless is what we will be in eternity. Holiness is what we are called to here and now. This holiness - this new and different way of living - is what Jesus bought and paid for on the cross. We must not miss the connection between the sin-bearing work of Christ and the sin-killing work of the Christian; between Christ cancelling sin and the Christian conquering sin. The New Testament shows us the direct connection between the horrors of Christ’s suffering and the holiness of the Christian.* We have been rescued *from* a life of sin and darkness and futility and saved *for* into a life of holiness and counter-cultural conformity to Christ. We are called to make a clean break - to live radically differently from those around us who don’t know Christ. We are saved for this purpose.

The Imperative: “walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called” (Eph 4:1)

The World: Why It Is the Way It Is (Eph 4:17-19)

Darkened Minds, Hardened hearts, Deadened Senses, Unbridled Desires

But You: The New Way That is In Christ (Eph 4: 20-24)

A totally different understanding of Truth

A radically different application of truth

Take off the old - that’s not who you are now.

Be constantly renewed - a new way of thinking.

Be consistently Christ-like - this is now who you are.

Applications:

*These three statements come from a J. Piper sermon I heard this week at T4G22.

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| I never knew... | I was reminded... | A question I still have... |
| I was challenged... | I was convicted... | A truth I could share... |
| I was encouraged to... | | I need to dig deeper into... |

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Is there a command to obey? | Am I convicted to confess any sin? |
| How am I compelled to exalt God? | Is there a sin to avoid? |
| Is there a promise to claim? | How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel? |
| Is there a principle to follow? | How can I pray for someone else? |
| Is there an example to follow? | What am I compelled to love or desire? |

Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write
your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

How would you use this passage (Ephesians 4:17-24) to explain Christianity to someone? In what ways does "Christianity" in our culture often *not* look like this description?

Read 1 Peter 1:13-21 together. What are the similarities in the way these passages use the word *ignorance*? Why is this an important word in both of these explanations from Paul, and how should that word affect us?

Why is a pursuit of holiness necessarily BOTH an individual and a corporate pursuit? Why does it depend on an ever-deepening understanding of Jesus as our substitute?

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.

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