

Bible Study – Ephesians 4:1-12
Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Ephesians 4:1 - Therefore I, a prisoner of the Lord, **beg** you to lead a life **worthy** of your calling, for you have been called by God.

In the Greek text, Paul places the word **“parakalō”** meaning **beseech, beg, or urge** as his first word in the sentence. *Such placement identified the words or phrases with _____¹ in the sentence.* **So, it was of greater concern to Paul that the believers led a life worth of God’s calling** which was upon them, rather than their understanding that he considered himself a prisoner of the Lord.

Paul’s emphasis is a key element in his writing here as it serves as _____² *from the theology to morality, from Christian faith to Christian living.* The word “therefore,” which we find at the start of this chapter can easily be replaced with **BECAUSE**. **Because of** what has just been considered relative to the mystery of salvation and the believer’s relationship to the Lord, it is then IMPARATIVE that we walk in a manner worthy of that relationship. *In a nutshell, this begins the “practical application” of what has already been delivered by the apostle in this prison epistle.*

What does *Axios [ōx.ē’ōs]* refer to?

Ephesians 4:2-3 – ² with **all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another** in love, ³ *endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

In three ways, the walk of the believer is to reflect his spiritual standing with the Lord. The believer is first to be **humble**, which is *a person’s attitude towards himself.* This is the first of three “building blocks.”

The second building block, the second *weight on the scale*, is **PATIENCE (which is an attribute of love)**. Consider **1 Corinthians 13**, known as the love chapter.

v. 4-7 - ⁴ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, BUT rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

* Which verse focuses on patience?

* Try substituting a synonym or like phrase for other descriptors in v. 4:

The third block, *the third weight* to balance one's behavior with one's profession and the revelation of the mystery, is found as **Ephesians 4:3** continues:

"endeavoring to _____³ of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

* Go back to **verses 4-7 of 1 Corinthians 13**, and identify any characteristic that would **hinder unity and peace** in the body of Christ.

Note: _____⁴ does not "just happen." The absence of the first two "building blocks" or characteristics in believers will definitely jeopardize Christian unity.

He continues **Ephesians 4** with regard to *the body of Christ, the church*:

⁴ There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; ⁵ **one Lord, one faith, one baptism**; ⁶ **one God and Father of all**, who is *above all, and through all, and in you all*.

Consider also: **Titus 2:11-15** - ¹¹ For **the grace of God** that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² **teaching us that**, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, **we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age**, ¹³ looking for **THE BLESSED HOPE** and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from **EVERY** lawless deed and **purify** for Himself **His own special people**, zealous for good works.

¹⁵ **Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority.**

Looking back again at v. 4-6 of **Ephesians 4**:

In the day that Paul wrote this epistle **there was a multitude of _____**⁵
people worshipped and served as “lord.” *Consider these others in light of Christ -*

Consider v. 6 of Ephesians 4 - one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

In **Ephesians 4:7**, there is a **shift from the concept of the Church in UNITY, as a whole, to the individuals that make up the Church.**

Consider now, **Ephesians 4:7-12** –

⁷ But **to each one of us** grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

⁸ Therefore He says:

*“When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men.”*

⁹ (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

¹¹ **And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ**

Christ has given “to each one of us” a function or ministry within His body, and these functions vary from person to person. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? (1 Cor. 12:17).

*What is meant by He “**led captivity captive**” as He ascended?*

V. 9 – Here we read that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth.

What does this mean?

Key to blanks: ¹greatest emphasis, ²a bridge, ³keep the unity, ⁴unity, ⁵false gods