

**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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> *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** – <sup>2</sup> with **all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another** in love, <sup>3</sup> *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** - <sup>4</sup> Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, BUT rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> 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:** \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> 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*:

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

Consider also: **Titus 2:11-15** - <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, **we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age**, <sup>13</sup> looking for **THE BLESSED HOPE** and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> **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 \_\_\_\_\_**<sup>5</sup>  
**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** –

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

<sup>8</sup> Therefore He says:

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

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

<sup>11</sup> **And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> 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: <sup>1</sup>greatest emphasis, <sup>2</sup>a bridge, <sup>3</sup>keep the unity, <sup>4</sup>unity, <sup>5</sup>false gods*