

LIVING WORTHY

Saturday, April 20

Reading: Ephesians 4:1-10

Ephesians 4:1 *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

2 *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.* **3** *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

The key word in these verses is “one.” If we are to live worthy of God’s calling on our lives, we must live in unity. To do this, we must have the proper attitudes. A HUMBLE person puts others before themselves. A GENTLE person does not “steamroll” over people. They are considerate, do not argue, or attempt to grab for power. Because people often disagree, PATIENCE is important for unity. A patient person bears with the faults of others. “Bearing with one another in LOVE” is the active side of patience. It makes allowances for people’s mistakes and gives them time to grow and mature. The Holy Spirit creates this bond between believers, but it is the duty of each believer to keep these attitudes that sustain peace.

While we are united in Christ, there is diversity within the body. Each believer is given a spiritual gift by Christ. These are an extension of His grace and are to be used for the benefit of the whole church. When Christ descended to earth, He won the victory over sin, death, and the devil. He then ascended to the right hand of God where He gives spiritual gifts to His Church.

LESSON ONE: “Live a Life Worthy.” Christ called us to salvation so we would be His representatives and witness to the world. The attitudes discussed in these verses are crucial if we are to be worthy of bearing His name (CHRISTian). Which of the four attitudes listed do you have the most trouble with? How will you work on these attitudes to become more like Christ?

LESSON TWO: “One Faith.” ‘Faith’ here is a noun describing the truth of the gospel. There are not many different ways to be saved. You cannot pick and choose what you want to believe. There is only one faith by which all must be saved. We may disagree on small matters of doctrine and practice, but we are united in our belief that Jesus is the only way of salvation and that we are called to live holy lives in Him. What do some other religious organizations claim about salvation? How can you spot a false teaching? (HINT: Ask them what they believe about Jesus and His death on the cross).

LESSON THREE: “One Baptism.” The baptism spoken of here is not water baptism. It is the baptism of the Holy Spirit by which He places the repentant sinner into the family of God. This happens at the moment of salvation and is a one-time event. The “filling of the Spirit” (which Paul will discuss in Ephesians 5) is the believer’s day-to-day reliance on the Spirit to control and strengthen you to live for God. Have you experienced the baptism of the Spirit by confessing your sins and asking Jesus to be your Lord and Savior? If you have, are you daily asking the Spirit to guide and direct your path so that you can live a life worthy of the Lord?