

SERMON: Walking With The Lord By E A Terry, Delivered 03 29 20
 Genesis 5:18-32 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18 Jude 1:14-18 Hebrews 11:1-6

The Book of Hebrews was written to the Jews around 70 AD to convince the Jews that faith was the only way to please God.

Remember for hundreds of years the Jews had been practicing a corrupt form of Judaism that taught you come to God and you please God by following a bunch of rules and traditions.

The Jews in Jesus' day were very religious but their hearts were far from God.

John The Baptist called the Jewish religious leaders **"a bunch of vipers"**. (Luke 3:7)

Jesus was also very critical of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.

Jesus said **"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean."** (Matthew 23:27)

The Jews tried to earn their salvation by keeping The Law, ceremonies, & tithing.

So, this portion of The Book of Hebrews is a call to faith.

Hebrews 10:38 says; **"But my righteous one will live by faith."** And Habakkuk 2:4 says **"the righteous person will live by his faithfulness"**.

So you see salvation by faith is an Old Testament concept as well as a New Testament concept.

To illustrate this important truth that salvation comes from belief in God the writer of Hebrews goes all the way back to Abel.

Abel recognized that he was a sinner and that he needed a proper blood sacrifice to come to God.

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings." (Hebrews 11: 4)

Able is the first hero of faith listed in our lesson from Hebrews.

Abel is an example of how a person enters a life of faith.

The second hero of faith listed in our lesson from Hebrews is Enoch.

Enoch is an example of how a person lives by faith or you could say Enoch is an example of a person who walks by faith.

We were first introduced to Enoch in our lesson from Genesis 5.

Genesis 5 gives us the genealogy of the descendants of Adam.

There we read that Enoch was the seventh generation after Adam and in Genesis 5:22 we read that Enoch **"walked with God for 300 years"**.

The fact that Enoch walked faithfully with God for 300 years is a remarkable accomplishment when we remember that Enoch lived in a very evil unbelieving world

Genesis 6:5-7 says; ***“The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.””***

“Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years.” (Genesis 5:22)

So what does it mean to walk with God?

Amos 3:3 says; ***“Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?”***

For two people to walk together means they have the same interest, the same morals, and the same purpose.

In other words they are in total agreement with each other.

Walking with God is another way of saying the two individuals enjoyed a close personal relationship.

And Hebrews 11:5 tells us ***“Enoch pleased God”*** so walking with God is another way of saying a person’s life is pleasing to God.

Enoch lived 65 years before he had a son named Methuselah.

Methuselah was the oldest person who has ever lived on this earth.

Methuselah was 969 years old when he died.

The name Methuselah literally means *“sent forth”*.

Biblical scholars have interpreted the name Methuselah to mean; *“when he is dead judgment shall be sent.”*

This judgment was the flood that destroyed the entire world during Noah’s time.

Genesis 7:6 tells us that Noah was 600 years old when the flood came.

If you carefully look at the people’s ages and the dates given in Genesis you will find that God’s judgment on an unbelieving evil world did not come until Methuselah died.

The year that Methuselah died the flood came.

God gave an unbelieving world 300 years to repent and to turn to Him.

God destroying the earth with the flood reminds us that God judges sin and God punishes sinners.

The people were warned for 300 years prior to the flood.

But the fact that Enoch and Noah warned the people about God's coming judgement shows us God's grace.

God gave these people ample time to repent.

We read about Enoch warning about God's coming judgement in our lesson from Jude.

The word walking implies a dynamic or on-going relationship.

Micah 6:8 tells us three things that God requires of mankind and the third requirement is to; ***"walk humbly with your Lord."***

To walk with The Lord means we want to be near to Him.

It means closely following Jesus and going where Jesus goes.

Genesis 6:9 tells us ***"Noah walked with God"*** and God rewarded Noah by saving Noah and his family from being destroyed in the flood.

Abraham was instructed by God to ***"walk before me and be blameless"*** (Genesis 17:1).

God blessed Abraham with children, land, and possessions.

Enoch ***walked with God*** for 300 years and God rewarded Enoch by allowing him to skip physical death.

Leviticus 26:12 contains God's promise to walk among His people. ***"I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."***

To me one of the most encouraging truths in The Bible is that our Creator God wants us to be a part of our daily life and He invites us to walk with Him each day.

Today we cannot physically walk with The Lord but we can spiritually walk with The Lord.

Remember the physical in The Bible always points to a spiritual truth.

The New Testament expands on what it means to walk with God.

2nd Corinthians 5:7 tells us; ***"we are to walk by faith"***.

3rd John 4 tells us ***we are to walk in truth***.

Ephesians 5:2; ***"we are to walk in love."***

Galatians 5:16 ***"walk by The Spirit"***;

Ephesians 2:10; ***"we are to walk in holiness."***

Ephesians 5:8; ***"we are to walk in The Light."***

Romans 13:13; ***"we are to walk in honesty"***;

2nd John 1:6 ***"we are to walk in obedience to His commands"***; and

1st John 2:10 sums up how we should walk by saying; ***"we should walk like Jesus"***.

And we know Jesus walked in perfect harmony with His Heavenly Father and in perfect harmony with His fellow man.

So, if we want to walk with The Lord we must be the people God desires us to be.

The way we think, the way we talk, and the way we act must conform to God's Word.

Enoch is a role model for us because Enoch enjoyed a close personal relationship with God for 300 years.

Remember God created mankind in His image so we could have a personal relationship with Him.

Having a close personal relationship with God is what pleases God.

Spiritually speaking Enoch shows us that walking with God each day is the way to please God.

We do not please God by following a bunch of rules or making sacrifices each day to appease Him or following a ritual of worship.

We please God by believing who God is, believing God's promises, accepting Jesus as our Savior, and living like Jesus taught each day.

Adam and Eve walked with God in the cool of the evening before they doubted God and disobeyed God. (Genesis 3:8)

However, after Adam and Eve doubted God and disobeyed God there is no mention of them walking with God.

You see sin separates us from our holy God.

So, we cannot have fellowship with God or walk with God if we doubt God or if we have unconfessed sin in our life.

In order for us to walk with God we have to continually confess our sin, repent of our sins, and be filled with The Holy Spirit each day so we can resist temptation and sin.

When we read our lesson from Genesis I am sure you notice that after each person except for Enoch The Bible said, ***"and he died"***.

Enoch did experience physical death.

God rewarded Enoch for walking with Him by taking Enoch to heaven before Enoch died physically.

Hebrews 11:5 tells us; ***"by faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: He could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God."***

So, Enoch is an Old Testament example of the Rapture that we read about in our lesson from 1st Thessalonians.

1st Thessalonians 4:16 -17 tells us; ***“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”***

Jude 14 and 15 tells us Enoch was a prophet who prophesized judgment upon ungodly people.

“Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: “See, The Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

Jude was a fiery preacher.

Four times Enoch warns the people in his day about their ungodly acts.

Even though Enoch lived before God destroyed the world with the flood, we know this is a prophesy about Jesus' second coming since he said; ***“See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones.”*** matches the description

This we read about in 1st Thessalonians 4.

Enoch believed God and Enoch tried to persuade his friends and neighbors to turn from their ungodly behavior and to turn to God.

Enoch reminded his friends and neighbors that God is love and merciful but since God is a holy, God will punish sin

In Genesis 6 we read that Noah preached repentance for 120 years before the flood.

God is the God of second chances and God reached out in mercy to the people before He destroyed the world with the flood.

Now it is up to each one of us as believers to tell the unsaved people God has put in our life about the love of God and the forgiveness of sin that Jesus offers.

God's word to us today reminds us that The Lord rewards those who obey His commandments and live like Jesus taught.

God's word to us today also reminds us that God judges sin and God punishes sinners.

Sin separates us from our Holy God.

When we sin we choose to shield ourselves from God's protection and God's blessings.

Hebrews 4:13 tells us; ***"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account"***.

And Galatians 6: 7 – 10 .⁷ ***Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.***

God's word to us today challenges each of us to experience the joy and the peace of walking with The Lord each and every day.

AMEN

Challenge:

Enoch is an example of a person who lived by faith, who walked by faith, and a person who pleased God. Enoch is a role model for us because Enoch enjoyed a close personal relationship with God for 300 years.

Enoch is also an Old Testament example of the Rapture that will occur when Jesus returns to establish His eternal kingdom.

To me one of the most encouraging truths in The Bible is that our Creator God wants us to be a part of our daily life and He invites us to walk with Him each day.

If we are to walk with The Lord we must walk in holiness, in love, in truth, in honesty, and in total obedience with Jesus commandments. And the only way we can do that is to be filled with The Holy Spirit.

God's word to us today reminds us that The Lord rewards those who obey His commandments and live like Jesus taught.

God's word to us today also reminds us that God judges sin and God punishes sinners.

As you go through the week remember sin separates us from our Holy God. When we sin we are choosing to shield ourselves from God's protection and God's blessings.

Our Benediction is Ephesians 3: 20 -21

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.