

(Supportive Notes:

“Circumspectly” = AKRIBOS = Accurately

see other uses in Mt. 2:8, Lk. 1:3, Acts 18:25, 26:5, I Thes. 5:2)

Here is an interesting imperative

-- In v. 2 We are told to WALK IN LOVE

That is the walk which is patterned for us – “As Christ also hath loved us.”

-- In v. 8 We are told to WALK IN LIGHT

That is the walk which is provided for us – “Now you are light in the Lord.”

-- In v. 15 We are told to WALK IN ACCURACY

That is the walk which is required of us – “See then that you walk accurately...”

WALK ACCURATELY! WHY?

1. IT IS A BIBLICAL COMMAND – Eph 5:15

2. IT IS BIBLICAL SENSE SAFETY

-- Prov 14:12 (16:25) “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

3. OTHERS ARE FOLLOWING OUR EXAMPLE.

-- We all live under the responsibility of influence.

-- Someone put it this way:

“A careful man I ought to be,
A Little fellow follows me.

I do not dare to go astray,
For fear he’ll go the selfsame way.

Not once can I escape his eyes;
Whate'er he sees me do – he tries.

Like me he says he's going to be,
That little chap who follows me."

WALK ACCURATELY! HOW?

I. DISCIPLINE IN THE REDEMPTION OF TIME

-- v 16 tells us that we are to be "redeeming the time because the days are evil."

Two Major Aspects of "Redeeming the Time"

1. To Prepare for Eternity
2. To use time for eternal values (see staff memo)

1. WHY MUST WE BE DISCIPLINED IN THE REDEMPTION OF TIME?

(1) Because the "days are evil!"

-- Evil is planning our days.

-- Christians, of all people, should see this clearer and quicker than anyone else.

-- But everyone should see it.

-- Evil is not passive, it is pro-active

-- Evil is not under-funded.

-- Evil has commandeered every aspect of culture, society, the arts, religion, human relationships (romance, peers, social acceptance, the corporate ladder) and education to work its ways into our life.

End here 9:15 service/9.21.97

(2) Because TIME will not last – and it will be lost.

-- Job said, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle." (7:6)

- James said, “Life is like a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanishes away.” (4:14)
- One of our young people has a Christian witness t-shirt imprinted ILLUMINATE BEFORE YOU EVAPORATE.
- The Bible says “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.” (Prov 27:1)

An Accurate Walk will plan tomorrow, and it will plan FOR tomorrow, but it will never plan ON tomorrow.

Not only must we be disciplined in the use of time

- (1) Because the Days are evil, and
- (2) Because time will not last,

We must also be disciplined in the use of time because

(3) It Takes Time to Plan an Accurate Walk

- Four questions for planning:
 - i. Where am I in my walk?
 - Saved. Lost. Rebellious. Ignorant. disenfranchised from life, no purpose in life, a materialist?
 - Absorbed by your vocation, distracted by your finances, possessed by your lusts, fooled by your peers.
 - ii. Where would I like to be in my walk? What is my destination in this walk?
 - The first question is – Heaven? Or Hell?
 - Then there are some other questions:

Would I like to have

- a meaningful life
- a happy marriage
- children who honor me

- a reputation of integrity
etc.

iii. What are the pitfalls in this walk?

- The Bible is full of protective advice about the Major pitfalls

(i.) Improper counsel and relationships.

- Psalm 1

(ii.) Destructive physical habits

- Prov 6:27 “Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned.”

- Amos 3:3 “Can two walk together except they be agreed?”

- Prov 23:3, 1-32 “Look not upon the wine when it is red...at the last it bitten like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.

(iii.) Immorality

- Prov 6:26 “By means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread.

- Prov 6:32 “Whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.”

iv. What are my Protections?

- Scripture

- 2 Tim 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

- Prayer (A prevailing theme)

- The Will of God – Rom 12:1-2

-- Good Works

- Titus 3:8 - “This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that you affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.”
- Now the Bible does not tell us that something is dangerous if it is not dangerous. Neither does it tell us that something is profitable if it is not profitable.

IT TAKES TIME TO PLAN AN ACCURATE WALK

- Some of the best instructions I have ever received on taking time to plan an accurate walk are instructions I learned when a child – and I still remember them. (You may look at them in your Hymnal, #415) These are the instructions given in a great old hymn.
 - a. “TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY”
 - b. “...speak oft with your Lord...”
 - c. “...abide in Him always...”
 - d. “...feed on His word...”
 - e. “...make friends of God’s children...”
 - f. “...help those who are weak...”
 - g. “...His blessing seek...”
 - h. “...spend time in secret with Jesus alone...”
 - i. “...let Him be your guide...”
 - j. “...run not before Him...”
 - k. “...be calm in your soul...”
 - l. “...each thought and each motive beneath His control...”

Not only must we be disciplined in the Use of Time

- (1) Because the days are evil, and
- (2) Because time will not last, and
- (3) Because it takes time to plan an accurate walk, but also because
- (4) At the end of time there is the judgment.
 - Heb 9:27 “...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

- The Bible tells us that there are two judgments specifically mentioned for individuals.
 - The Great White Throne
 - The Judgment Seat

2. HOW DO WE DISCIPLINE OURSELVES IN THE REDEMPTION OF TIME?

(1) Start Early

- Eccl 12:1 “Remember now your creator in the days of your youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh...” (Remember this: You are younger today than you will ever be again.)

(2) Plan Carefully

- Psa 90:12 “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

- There are three aspects of planning.

i. A Specific Calculation

“So teach us to number (Heb. = MANAH = pr. Maw-Naw’, = “to weigh out, to allot,” strongs-4487)

How to Plan Carefully in the Redemption of Time

(i) Pray

(ii) Prioritize – (Set Godly goals)

- First things first.
 - salvation

- Example: Regardless of how hungry your family may be, you do not have time to go to the store if you have not taken care of your salvation first.

(iii) Plan According to Priorities.

(iv) Maintain control of your Plan.

(v) Organize the small necessities which take your time.

-- Trips to the store, ball games, etc.

(vi) Prepare for unexpected time stealers.

-- waiting on others.

(vii) Be willing to eliminate things you like from your schedule.

-- Reading junk mail

-- Browsing catalogs

-- Sports, TV

-- Shopping

In the Careful planning of your time, there is not only the need of

i. Specific calculation, there is also the need for

ii. A serious devotion

“So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts...”
(Put your heart into this planning of your time.)

In planning carefully, there is not only the need for

i. A SPECIFIC CALCULATION, and

ii. A SERIOUS DEVOTION, there is also the need for

iii. A Noble Motive

-- “That we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

(Ps 90:12)

When we discipline ourselves in the Redemption of time, we will

-- start early, plan carefully, and

(3) Act Strategically

-- Col 4:5 “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”

-- We have no minute to use unwisely, especially when it comes to our influence over non-Christians (them that are without – I Cor 5:12, I Thes. 5:12)

NOW, THE WAY WE WALK ACCURATELY is not only by

I. Discipline in the Redemption of Time, But also by

II. UNDERSTANDING IN THE WILL OF THE LORD

- v. 17 - “Wherefore be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”
 - The opposite of “Understanding what the will of the Lord is” is to be an unwise person.
- The Bible has a lot to say about the significance of THE WILL OF GOD. (In all, there are 23 times when the phrase “the will of God” is used.)
 - Mk. 3:35 “For whosoever **shall do** the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.”
 - Acts 13:36 “For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption”
 - Rom. 1:10 “Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.”
 - Rom. 8:27 “And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”
 - Rom. 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
 - I Cor. 1:1“ “PAUL, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God...”
 - 2 Cor. 8:5 “And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave themselves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.”
 - Gal. 1:4 “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of God and our Father.”

-- (Other references are: Rom. 15:2; 2 Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:1, 6:6; Col. 1:1, 4:12; I Thes. 4:3, 5:18; 2 Tim. 1:1; Heb. 10:36; I Pet. 2:15, 3:17, 4:2,19; I Jn. 2:17)

-- Exactly How Do We Get To Know And Understand The Will Of God?

-- Here are some definite instructions.

1 - EXPLORE THE DEFINITE AND REVEALED WILL WHICH IS GIVEN TO US IN SCRIPTURE

-- Now, there are times, circumstances, things we will face in life where we do not have a definite word from God with reference to the will of God. What shall we do to walk accurately by understanding the will of God?

(1) It is God's will for all people to be saved.

“God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Pt 3:9)

-- Some will teach a doctrine contrary to this – that God by some act has chosen some to be saved and has not chosen others. Don't you believe it. Such teaching comes from somewhere other than the Bible.

(2) It is God's will for us to keep His commandments.

--Read I Jn 2:3-4, 3:22, 5:2-3

(3) It is God's will for us to do good works.

-- Read Eph 2:8-10

NOTE: Now there are times, circumstances and things which we will face in life where we do not have a definite word from God with reference to His will.

What shall we do to gain an understanding of His will in a case like that?

2 - PRAY FOR IT - Psa. 27:11

3 - GET OTHERS TO PRAY FOR YOU ABOUT IT

Col. 4:12 “Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”

4 - KEEP COMPANIONSHIP WITH THOSE WHO KEEP GODLY TEACHING

Psa. 119:63 “I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of all them that keep they precepts.” i.e. - walk with those who walk with God.

5 - DESTROY YOUR OWN WILL AND EVERYTHING ABOUT YOURSELF THAT COULD BECOME REBELLIOUS TOWARD GOD.

-- illustration – Gen 22

-- Rom. 12:1 “Present your bodies a living sacrifice.”

end here 12.7.97

6 - LIVE A LIFE OF HOLINESS AND ACCEPTABLENESS TO GOD (Rom. 12: 1) and separation from the world.

-- Rom 12:1 – “present your bodies...holy, acceptable unto God.”

(1) Learn from scripture God’s standard of holiness.

(i) Holiness is to be affirmed by God’s standard – not to be deformed by Man’s.

(ii) Holiness is mandated by God’s decree – not excused by man’s depravity. (Lev. 20:7, I Pt 1:15-16)

(2) Apply through Discipline the exercise of holiness.

-- **Holy** is an adjective which describes the character of God. It should be a word which describes the behavior of His people.

(3) Protect your desire to live a Holy life.

-- Sin dilutes spiritual devotion.

-- Sin distracts spiritual focus.

-- Sin deadens spiritual sensitivity.

-- Sin deadens spiritual sensitivity.

7 - RENEW YOUR MIND IN THE THINGS OF GOD

Rom. 12:2 “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

-- If we are going to walk the walk of accuracy (v 15) we must have an understanding in the will of God (v 17)

The Bible says in Rom 12:2 that we may prove the “good, acceptable and perfect will of God” by, among other things, “the renewing of our mind.”

-- We may be absolutely sure that we will never walk the walk of accuracy until we have a “Renewed Mind”

-- Over the years we Christians have been praised, cursed, and misrepresented. One of the kindest finest things that has ever been said of us is that we believe in and practice “brain-washing.”

-- Brainwashing is a distinct blessing which, increasingly, needs our more accurate attention and diligent discipline.

Consider for a minute how much human tragedy would have been averted had some brains been washed and renewed.

-- The major social problems at which our government throws billions of dollars each year – the tragic break-up of families, child abuse, drug addiction, executive fraud, lying, cheating, drunkenness...the list goes on and on.

-- Now we face some basic questions:

- (1) What is the History of the Demise of the Mind?
- (2) What are the Results of the Demise of the Mind?
- (3) What are the Provisions for the Renewal of the Mind?

(1) What is the History of the Demise of the Mind?

- i. Men and Women listened to lies about the Word of God.

-- Read and explain Gen 3:1-4

ii. Men and Women sought out inventions contrary to God.

-- Eccl 7:29 – “This only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.” (Strong’s No. 2810 = a contrivance, a warlike machine, from 2803 = to plot or contrive)

iii. Men and women worshipped the creature instead of God.

-- Read and explain Rom 1:18-28

(2) What are the Results of the Demise of the Mind?

i. The result is clearly stated in Romans 7:23

“I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”

ii. The result is clearly illustrated in 2 Tim 3:1-8 (key v 8)

iii. The result is clearly demonstrated in Eph 2:1-3

-- v 1 We had no spiritual life.

-- v 2 We had no spiritual freedom.

-- v 3 We had no spiritual appetite.

(3) What are the provisions for the renewal of the Mind?

i. Submission of the mind to the mind of Christ.

-- Phil 2:5 – “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...”

ii. Opening of the mind to the Word of God.

- Luke 24:44-45 – “These are the words which spake unto you while I was yet with you (said Jesus), that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.”
v 45 “Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.”

iii. Captivity of the mind to the law of God.

- Rom 7:24-25 – “O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve (douleuo = am a slave of) the law of God.”

No wonder then, that if we are going to walk the walk of accuracy we must have an understanding in the will of God, and no wonder, if we are to have an understanding in the will of God, we must have a renewal of our mind.

RLA/Jan 9, '98

8. WE MUST ESTABLISH THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS OF GODLY RELIANCE

- Our key text is Prov. 3:5-6
- READ Prov. 3:5-6
- Now the key introduction is this -
- v. 5 “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart...”
- Here is an essential ACTION
- TRUST
- Here is an eternal OBJECTIVE
- IN THE LORD

-- Here is an ENCOMPASSING ARENA

-- WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART

-- There are at least three things we need to know –
WE NEED TO KNOW THAT ESTABLISHED GODLY RELIANCE:

- (1) Will be contrary to our natural understanding
- (2) Will demand completeness in our devotion
- (3) Will establish confidence in our Lord's effective faithfulness

(1) A Properly Established Godly Reliance Will Be Contrary To Our Natural Understanding.

-- Prov. 3:5 "...lean not unto your own understanding."

-- Prov. 3:7 "Be not wise in your own eyes..."

-- This has been quite impossible for a human to achieve.

-- Adam and Eve failed - as they leaned on their own understanding.

-- The Proverbs warn us about our own understanding:

"There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 14:12; 16:25)

-- It was when men and women leaned unto their own understanding that the resulting vileness gave to the human race the plagues of homosexuality and lesbianism. (Rom. 1:18-32)

-- The church that leaned unto its own understanding said of itself; "I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." ...but they heard God say, "I will spit you out of my mouth...because you know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." (Rev. 3:16-17)

- From the days of Adam there has been a problem with man's desire to trust himself instead of trusting God.

God has been accused of being unreasonable and unfair in such a requirement of asking man to abandon his own understanding and trust God totally. Satan lied to Adam about God's motive in the requirement, of asking man to abandon his own understanding and trust God totally.

- Let me share with you three reasons why God insists on our abandoning our understanding in favor of TRUSTING HIM TOTALLY.

(a) HIS PRE-EMINENT RIGHT

- He owns us - By design - and by construction (creation).
- He repossessed us by redemption.
- He has prior claim to all that we are.

(b) HIS PASSIONATE REASON

- He knows our lot when we refuse His ways.

He sees the result of sin before we sin.

- "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man. The end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 14:12)
- Rom. 11:33
 - (1) v. 34
 - (2) v. 35
 - (3) v. 36

(c) HIS PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY -

- He is Our Father. It is His responsibility to act Fatherly.
- Our walk of ACCURACY is irrevocably dependent upon the Father's fulfilling of His Parental Responsibility.
- Note all the reason, compassion, patience, instruction, care, nurture, forgiveness, restoration - etc. that has been manifested by this matchless Father from the dawn of human history.
 - What a model He is to us who are fathers.
 - We are told as fathers to bring up our own children in the nurture (correction, teaching) and admonition (rebuke, warning) of the Lord.
Eph. 6:4
 - In this walk of accuracy it is vital that we have an understanding of the will of God by having a properly established Godly Reliance.

End here 3.1.98

And we need to know that not only will A PROPERLY ESTABLISHED Godly Reliance Be Contrary To Our Natural Understanding, it also

(2) WILL DEMAND COMPLETENESS IN OUR DEVOTION

- v. 5 - "with all your heart"
- v. 6 - "In all your ways."
- God is not a partial God. Neither does He have partial disciples.

The Bible knows nothing of half-hearted devotion.

The cross of Christ upon which we die is neither a partial cross nor does it produce a partial death.

When a person comes to Christ, he/she comes all the way or he/she does not come at all.

-- In “the walk of accuracy” which we can take only with an understanding of the will of God, **every ingredient of our nature is essential.**

-- No piece of us is excused.

-- This is the necessity of the so-called “little things” in life.

-- The necessity of the so-called “little things in life” is illustrated in the little story:

“For want of the nail, the shoe was lost.

For want of the shoe, the hoof was lost.

For want of the hoof, the leg was lost.

For want of the leg, the horse was lost.

For want of the horse, the rider was lost.

For want of the rider, the message was lost.

For want of the message, the battle was lost.

For want of the battle, the war was lost.

For want of the war, the nation was lost.

For want of the nation, ALL was lost.”

-- There is no such thing as a little sin. In your walk of accuracy – every detail of life matters.

-- We must pay attention to the little things of life.

-- Our God is a God of completeness.

-- When He brought Israel out of Egypt, He brought them through the Red Sea on DRY ground. (Ex. 14:16,21,22,29; 15:19)

-- When Naaman was miraculously healed of his leprosy, the Bible says that he was not

only healed of leprosy, but that “his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child.” (2 Kings 5:14)

(HUMOR) (Grandchild commenting on the difference between his skin and that of his grandfather – “God surely makes better skin now than He did when He made yours, doesn’t He, granddaddy.”)

-- When Jesus healed the lame man He not only gave him ability to walk, but to “take up his bed and walk.”

-- Our God is not a partial God.

His love is not partial

His power is not partial

His holiness is not partial

His demands are not partial

His disciples are not partial

-- A half hearted , insincere, partial disciple is not a disciple of Christ.

-- A half-hearted disciple may be a disciple of a half-hearted Theologian, Philosopher, Politician, Pastor, - But he is not in any way a disciple of Christ.

-- When we stand in Judgement - ALL will be judged.

-- All of our Spirit

-- All of our Soul (Mind - Emotion - Will)

-- All of our Body

-- All of our schedule (time used, time abused, time wasted.) (v. 16 – “Redeem the time”)

- All of our actions.
- Idle words, hidden thoughts and “secret sins.”
- This God of ours calls us to trust Him with “all of our heart” and “in all of our ways.”

In this “WALK OF ACCURACY” (v. 15) it is vital that we have an “understanding of the will of God”(v. 17). If we are to have an “understanding of the will of God” we must have a “PROPERLY ESTABLISHED GODLY RELIANCE”

AND we need to know that a properly established Godly Reliance will not only

- (1) BE CONTRARY TO OUR NATURAL UNDERSTANDING and
- (2) WILL DEMAND COMPLETENESS IN THE DEVOTION OF OUR LIVES, but that it -
- (3) WILL ESTABLISH CONFIDENCE IN OUR LORD’S EFFECTIVE FAITHFULNESS

-- Prov. 3:6 - “He shall direct thy paths.”

-- Many are the reasons for CONFIDENCE IN OUR LORD’S EFFECTIVE FAITHFULNESS

a. The history of tragedy

- Look at the tragedies of individuals (homosexuality; aids; marriage outside of the will of God -- God said marriage will be by my design - Man said - Marriage will be by our desire -- divorce; undisciplined parents; rebellious children.)

- READ AND EXPLAIN
- Look at the history of nations.
- READ AND EXPLAIN Isa. 30:1-3

b. The history of Triumph

- READ AND EXPLAIN
- ISA. 30:19-21

(esp. v. 21 “and thine eyes shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it,’ (the accurate walk) when you turn to the right hand, and when you turn to the left.”)

- ILLUSTRATION:

Thursday, June 28, 1787, Benjamin Franklin, delivered a powerful speech to the Constitutional Convention, which was embroiled in a bitter debate over how each state was to be represented in the new government. The hostile feelings created by the smaller states being pitted against the larger states, was so bitter that some delegates actually left the Convention.

Benjamin Franklin, being the President (Governor) of Pennsylvania, hosted the rest of the 55 delegates attending the Convention. Being the senior member of the convention at 81 years of age, he commanded the respect of all present, and, as recorded in James Madison’s detailed records, he rose to speak in this moment of crisis:

“Mr. President:
 The small progress we have made after four or five weeks of close attendance & continual reasonings with each other--our different sentiments on almost every question, several of the last producing as many noes as ayes, is methinks a melancholy

proof of the imperfection of the Human Understanding.

We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running about in search of it. We have gone back to ancient history for models of government, and examined the different forms of those Republics which, having been formed with the seeds of their own dissolutions, now no longer exist. And we have viewed Modern States all round Europe, but find none of their Constitutions suitable in our circumstances.

In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding?

In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for Divine protection.--Our Prayers, Sir, were heard, & they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor.

To that kind Providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?

I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth -- that God Governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?

We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that "except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it." I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our partial local interests; our projects will be

confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and by word down to future ages.

And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by Human wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest.

I therefore beg leave to move--that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service."

The response of the convention to this speech of Benjamin Franklin was reported by Jonathan Dayton, the delegate from New Jersey:

"The Doctor sat down; and never did I behold a countenance at once so dignified and delighted as was that of Washington at the close of the address; nor were the members of the convention generally less affected. The words of the venerable Franklin fell upon our ears with a weight and authority, even greater than we may suppose an oracle to have had in a Roman senate!"

** (AMERICA'S GOD AND COUNTRY, Encyclopedia of Quotations, ed. William J. Federer, FAME Publishing, Inc., Coppell, TX □ 1994, p. 247-249)

-- But in Considering the Reasons for Confidence In Our Lord's Effective Faithfulness, not only is there

a. The history of Tragedy and

b. The history of Triumph, there is also

c. The History of Trash

-- Any one, any nation who refuses the effective faithfulness of God is opting for a pattern of life that is sick, repulsive and destructive.

-- When God promised Israel that He would "be very gracious unto the voice of their cry" (Isa. 30:19) He also instructed them:

-- Isa. 30:22 “Ye shall defile the covering of your graven images of silver, and the ornament of your molten images of gold: and you shall cast them away as a **menstruous** (DAVEH = Strong's NO. 1739 & 1738) cloth; you shall say unto it, ‘get thee hence.’”
(Away with you.)

-- Think of this -- a person or a nation which opts for “counsel that is not of God” opts instead for that which is on the value level of a menstruous cloth.

-- This is the “trash” for which our nation opted in its determination to become a porno protecting, Bible rejecting, morality murdering, material mongering, Powerless Parenting society which chooses to lean on its own understanding.

America is now experiencing the savage ravage of the menstruous cloth. (Isa 30:22)

-- In considering the Reasons for Our Lord’s Effective Faithfulness, not only is there

- a. The history of Tragedy, and
- b. The history of Triumph, and
- c. The history of Trash, there is also
- d. The History of Truth

-- Prov. 3:6 “He shall direct your path.”

-- Psa. 32:8 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you shall go, I will guide you with my eye.”

Such is an Understanding of The Will of God -

and such is a requirement for the walk of accuracy.

Prep. - RLA - Jan. '98

We come now to the ninth (9th) consideration of our understanding of the will of God as a vital matter in our Walk of Accuracy.

9. It is this: HASTE OR WASTE – Psalm 59-60

HASTE = CHUWSH (pron. KOOSH) = from the primitive root to hurry, to be eager with excitement or enjoyment, to be ready.

-- Our Hymn has taught Readiness in the Will of God.

-- “Ready to go,
Ready to stay,
Ready my place to fill;
Ready for service,
lowly or great,
Ready to do His Will.”

-- Psa. 119:59-60 “I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto your testimonies. (The Walk of Accuracy) I made haste, and delayed not to keep your testimonies.”

-- Very simply - The Will of God delayed is the Will of God disobeyed.

God is not only on a schedule, He is on time.

-- Whether we are talking about the prophecies of Isaiah and Daniel (which have spanned centuries), or the prophecies of the end of time (which have spanned millenniums), or the protective timing of placing Esther in the court of Ahasuerus (which was timing by months) or of Stephen meeting the Ethiopian in the desert (which was timing by minutes)- We need to know that God is not only on a schedule, HE IS ON TIME.

-- In our Walk of Accuracy we must have an understanding of the Will of God, and in this understanding we must know that timing is essential to integrity - and the matter is HASTE OR WASTE.

THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE MATTERS TO CONSIDER:

- I - THE EXAMPLES FOR US
- II - THE PROBLEMS WITHIN US
- III - THE DEADLINES BEFORE US

* *

I - THE EXAMPLES FOR US -

1 - ABRAM in Haran (Northern Iraq & Eastern Syria)

-- Read GEN 12:1-4

-- v. 4 - "So Abram departed...."

2 - PHILIP in Jerusalem

-- ACTS 8:26-27 "And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip saying, Arise, and go toward the south, unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went...."

3 - PAUL in Troas, N.W. Turkey & the NE shores of the Ayeam Sea

-- ACTS 16:9-10 "And a vision appeared unto Paul in the night; there stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, come over into Macedonia, and help us. v. 10 - And after he had seen the vision, immediately we (Luke, Silas, Timothy, Paul) endeavored to go into Macedonia."

Now in our understanding of immediate obedience - or HASTE OR WASTE, there are not only

-- THE EXAMPLES FOR US,
there is also

II - THE PROBLEMS WITHIN US

1 - The Problem of Presumptive Action

-- Prov. 19:21 "There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand."

- 2 Peter 2:9-10 “The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished: but chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.”
- It was presumption that caused Peter to pull the sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. (Lk. 18:10-11)
- But not only is there the problem of presumptive action, there is also

2 - The Problem of Postponed (delayed) action.

- Lk. 9:57-62 (READ)

(1) Failure in THE DENIAL OF PERSONAL COMFORT

- v. 57-58

(2) The Assumption of DUTIES WHICH BELONG TO ANOTHER

- Lk. 9:59-60 “Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father.” Jesus said, “Let the dead bury their dead:....”

(3) The Distraction of OUR ATTENTION FROM DIVINE PURPOSE -

- v. 61-62 “I will follow you; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house (family members). And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of GOD.”

end here 3.22.98

But Not Only in This Matter of Immediate Obedience - or HASTE or WASTE, are there

I - EXAMPLES FOR US, and

II - PROBLEMS WITHIN US, there are also

III DEADLINES BEFORE US

1. The Evil that will be stopped

- READ & EXPLAIN

- (1) Prov 6:12-15
- (2) Prov 24:19-22
- (3) Prov 29:1
- (4) Isa 30:8-13

2. The Opportunity that will be lost

These opportunities are in many fashions: personal, family, church.

- (1) Jer 8:19 when the Lord considered “the hurt of (His) people” – He referred to “their cry because of them that dwell in a far country.”

Our Lord then asked a few questions which were designed to accent the opportunities they had – and yet let go –

- Jer 8:19
 - “Is not the LORD in Zion?”
 - “Is not her king in her?”
 - “Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, and with strange vanities?”
- And then the Lord has Jeremiah exclaim in v 20 “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”
- This is a National Opportunity:
 - To restore the Ten Commandments to the walls of our classrooms and the hearts of our children.
 - To teach them of their created purpose.
 - To stop the adult world from the slaughter of their would-be classmates.
 - Yet we have replaced prayer for classmates with bullets for

classmates.

- Created design with creature lust.
 - Respect for life with the abomination of abortion.
 - Yet what do we do – we appropriate another 10 million to study “security in our classrooms.”
- (2) Jesus told us about this opportunity that will be lost
- Jn 4:35 – “Say not, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields: for they are white already to harvest.”
- (3) The Bible is clear about the opportunity that will be lost –
- “Today if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart.” (Psa 95:8, Heb 3:8, 15; 4:7)
 - 2 Cor 6:2 – “I have heard you in a time accepted, and in a day of salvation I have succored (help, aid) you: behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation.”
 - When looking at these passing opportunities, and our responsibility to make HASTE in obeying the will of God, Dr. A.B. Simpson wrote these challenging words:

“They are passing, passing
fast away,
One hundred Thousand
Souls a day
In Christless guilt
And gloom.

Oh Church of Christ
What will you say
When on that
Awful Judgment Day
They charge
With their Doom.”

-- But not only do we face the deadlines of

1. The evil that will be stopped, and
2. The opportunity that will be lost,
We also must reckon with the deadline of

3. The Life that will not Last

(1) Heb 9:27 – “It is appointed unto men once to die...”

(2) James 4:14 asks: “What is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanishes away.”

(Only a few people really live longer than they expect to live)

(3) I Chron 29:15 – “...our days on the earth are as a shadow...”

(4) Job – of Old Testament fame – said, “My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle.” (Job 7:6)

(5) As Christ delays His coming, we will all soon say:
“The time of my departure is at hand.” (2 Tim 4:6)

-- That is why those who walk the Walk of Accuracy say

“I made haste and delayed not to keep your testimonies.”
(Psa 119:59-60)

-- But in this necessity to MAKE HASTE, we not only confront the deadlines of

1. The evil that will be stopped,
2. That opportunity that will be lost,
3. The life that will not last,
We also must reckon with

4. The Judgment that will soon be faced.

-- Rom 14:10 – “We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ...” v 12 – “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

-- Jesus said, “...every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.” (Mt 12:36)

-- 2 Cor 5:10 "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ..."

An Understanding of the will of God will cause us to say:

"I made haste, and delayed not to keep (His) commandments." (Psa 119:60)

But there are deadlines before us:

- The Evil that will be stopped
- The opportunities that will be lost.
- The life that will not last
- The judgment that will be faced.

In what shall we make haste?

- Our salvation –
 - Haste is the order of eternity –
 - the command of the scriptures
 - Our total life relationship with God.
 - Human relationships
 - Parents/spouse/children/associates/etc.

* * *

Prep. RLA - Jan., Mar. '98

Now In The Walk of Accuracy, there is not only

- I - Discipline in the use of time and
- II - Understanding in the Will of God,
 - there is also

III. SOBRIETY IN THE CONTROL OF LIFE

- v. 18 "Do not be drunk with wine wherein is excess (unsavedness, from Gr. 'A' - the neg. particle, and 'SOTIA' - to save.) but be filled with the Spirit."
(Filled means to "be replete," completed, etc. nothing else needed, etc.)

-- It is a foolish person who opts out of a Spirit controlled life for the temporary splash into self-deceit.

-- Prov 23:29-32 “Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has babblings? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. □ □ Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. □ At the last it biteth, and stingeth like an adder.” (Prov. 23:29-32)

-- It must be said that “Drunkenness robs the drinker of all self-control; stimulates every part of his life with a false excitement; animates his entire nature with a counterfeit pleasure; throws his entire personality out of adjustment; destroys the power of his mind and will to function normally; and leads to moral, mental and physical disorder” (Ruth Paxson in *Wealth, Walk, Warfare*, p. 139-140)

-- Prov. 20:1 puts it this way:

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”

-- Prov. 23:19-20 puts it this way:

“Hear...my son, and be wise, and guide your heart in the way. Be not among winebibbers,..”

-- But SOBRIETY IN THE CONTROL OF LIFE is not merely the abstinence from wine,

There is also the command to be “filled with the Spirit.”

-- Ruth Paxson, a great missionary teacher in China during the early part of this 20th century, put it this way:

“One need never live on any plane but the highest.” (ibid, p. 140)

She said, “Fullness imparts to the Christian the power of self-control; animates his heart with pure joy; invigorates his whole being with newness of life; brings his spirit, soul and body into right adjustment; enhances the power of mind, heart and will to fulfill the divine purpose, and leads to spiritual, moral, mental and physical wholeness.” (ibid, p. 140)

- THE WALK OF ACCURACY is dependent upon the conditions of accuracy, and those conditions certainly include

THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE – Galatians 5:22-26

- NOTE: It is impossible to be Spirit filled if we have allowed any degree of our life to be possessed by another:

(includes pornography, obsessions)

- TO THE DEGREE THAT WE HAVE SOME OF THE WORST - WE HAVE LESS OF THE BEST.

(Illustration - a glass containing some of one thing cannot be filled with another thing. This command, of v. 13 is therefore teaching total abstinence, not mere non-drunkenness, because it is simply impossible to be filled with the Spirit, if we contain any other matter. In simple terms, we cannot be filled with the Spirit until we are emptied of all foreign matters.)

- (SEE APPENDIX “A” to these notes.)

NOW, IN THE WALK OF ACCURACY, THERE IS NOT ONLY

I - OUR DISCIPLINE IN THE USE OF TIME, and

II - OUR UNDERSTANDING IN THE WILL OF GOD, and

III - OUR SOBRIETY IN THE CONTROL OF LIFE, there is also

IV. OUR CONSISTENCY IN THE EXPRESSION OF THANKS

- READ 5:19-20

- It is an amazing thing how an attitude of gratitude keeps us safe in the path of life.

A human illustration may be seen in our own nation. When our ancestors gave thanks to God and concentrated on opportunities and responsibilities, our families and our nation prospered.

When we started concentrating on our “RIGHTS” and quit giving thanks, our families broke up, our streets became unsafe, our institutions became jungles,

and our nation became shamed.

-- WHAT ARE THE INGREDIENTS WHICH KEEP US CONSISTENT IN THE EXPRESSION OF THANKS?

1. THE DISCIPLINE OF OUR MIND

-- v. 19A “Speak to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...”

-- Major Question in the Walk of Accuracy – “What do you say when you speak to yourself?”

2. THE ATTITUDE OF OUR HEART

-- v. 19B “...(1)singing and (2)making melody in (3)your heart (4)to the Lord;...” (the one heart for which you are responsible)

3. THE APPROPRIATION OF OUR TIME

-- v. 20 “Giving thanks ALWAYS for all things...”

4. THE RECOGNITION OF OUR RESOURCES

-- v. 20 “...unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;...”

NOW, IN THE WALK OF ACCURACY THERE IS NOT ONLY

I - OUR DISCIPLINE IN THE REDEMPTION OF TIME, (v. 16) and

II - OUR UNDERSTANDING IN THE WILL OF GOD, (v. 17) and

III - OUR SOBRIETY IN THE CONTROL OF LIFE, (v. 18) and

IV - OUR CONSISTENCY IN THE EXPRESSION OF THANKS, (v. 19-20)
there is also

V. OUR SUBMISSION IN THE FEAR OF GOD

-- **READ** v. 21

-- To submit to God is one thing, but to submit “one to another” is quite another story.

-- You have no doubt heard the little “ditty”

“To dwell above with the saints we love –
That will be glory.

To live below with the saints we know.
Now that’s another story.”

-- There are many lessons in this matter of SUBMISSION IN THE FEAR OF GOD (I will mention three.)

1 - HUMILITY FOR MYSELF

-- The commandment for my submission goes right to the issue of God-ordained humility.

-- I Peter 5:5 “...all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

-- Our upside-down society today has come to the remarkable conclusion that humility is self-destructive.

-- But the Bible says, in Prov. 18:12 “Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor is humility.” (The Walk of Accuracy is a walk of humility. The opposite of which is danger and destruction)

-- In Our Submission In The Fear Of God, not only is there

-- HUMILITY FOR MYSELF
there is also

2 - ESTEEM FOR OTHERS

-- Eph. 5:21 We are to submit ourselves “One to another.”

-- Friendship

-- Refusal of cliques

-- Aggressive friendliness.

-- Do not follow the line of least resistance.

- One of the greatest reasons for having close friends is that as a group you may have greater ministry to assist others.
- We are to do nothing through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind we are to esteem others better than ourselves. (Phil. 2:3) v. 4 - We are not to confine our concerns for our own things, but we are to be concerned about the things of others.
- There are four major things that depend on this part of our Walk of Accuracy.
 - (1) Our Family
 - (2) Our Church
 - (3) Our Nation
 - (4) Our Witness

3 - HONOR FOR GOD

- Eph. 5:21 “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”
- Our proper relationship with others is driven by honor and respect to the God who created them, loves them, desires them.
- Our esteem for others is not based on our evaluation of those we esteem. It is to be based upon:
 - (1) God’s ordering of our esteem for them
 - (2) Our esteem for God.
- The Walk of Accuracy is the walk that is protected by our reverence of God --
 - By our concern to know Him, and to obey Him, and to honor Him we will desire to know, serve, and honor each other.

CONCLUSION:

What an inviting and encouraging walk this is.

Its characteristics will seem contradictory to modern thought. But God has the proven record.

See then that you walk accurately.

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