

“So What?”
Ephesians 4:1
Sermon Series: “The Walk”

Introduction: We have spent several months studying the great doctrinal truths of the first three chapters of Ephesians and looking at who we are in Christ, how we are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Him, and how we are united together in the church. Now, we come to a turning point in the book where Paul begins to focus on how we live out what Jesus has done for us. This is the practical application section. It is time to ask the so what question? So what do I do with this? So what does this mean to my life? So how do I live this out?

There are at least five key words in verse 1.

-“Therefore” is the hinge word in the letter, and the significance is that it connects everything he has already said to what he is about to say. In other words, based on everything God has done for you in Christ and through the Spirit, this is how you are to live your life.

-Beseech means to appeal, exhort, or encourage.

-Walk means daily conduct or lifestyle.

-Calling is defined by John MacArthur as the “sovereign, saving calling of God,” the “effectual call to salvation.”

-Worthy is the Greek word, “*axios*,” and it literally means “to balance the scales.” In this context, it means that “Paul is insisting that there should be a balance between profession and practice” (A. Skevington Wood).

Main Idea: We live out what Jesus expects of us by living out of what Jesus has done for us.

How do we live out of what Jesus has done for us?

1. We see the gospel as the means of our salvation AND spiritual growth. J.D. Greear says, “Most evangelicals see the gospel as

merely the entry rite into Christianity, the diving board into the pool. But the gospel is both diving board and pool. As we grow in awe and worship of who God is and what He’s done for us at the cross, we begin to serve God naturally.” Living the Christian life is Jesus living through you instead of you for Jesus or Jesus and you (Galatians 2:20). Let’s review the chart by Tim Keller that we have given out to you.

2. We live a new life out of a new heart (see Ezekiel 11:19-20, 36:26-27). We are regenerated, which means we are made spiritually alive and have:

-A new identity

-A new master

-New desires

-New affections

3. We realize that the Christian life is not behavior modification but total life transformation into Christlikeness (Romans 8:29-30, 2 Corinthians 5:15).

Judd Wilhite says, “Most of us don’t want changed lives. We want changed situations.”

4. We keep our focus on Jesus and what He has done for us (2 Corinthians 3:18, Hebrews 12:1-2. Romans 6:1-16).

J.D. Greear writes, “The fire to do in the Christian life comes from being soaked in the fuel of what has been done.”

Conclusion: Are you trusting Jesus and His finished work alone for your salvation? Are you walking with Him and letting Him live through you? That is how we grow spiritually and honor God.