

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 4:1-3**.
- B. Christians are to walk in a manner worthy of the calling which they have from JC.
- C. This morning's lesson deals with who is worthy and why.
- D. By way of introduction we look at Acts 5:33-42 where Peter and John rejoiced because they were counted worthy to suffer for X.

## I. NO ONE IS WORTHY.

- A. The parable of Mt. 22:1-14 tells us that the Jews were not worthy to have X:
  - 1. The king is God, and the son is Christ (Heb. 3:3).  
*For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house.*
  - 2. The king's slaves are the OT prophets (Heb. 11:38).  
*(men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.*
  - 3. The Jews killed them, while not believing their message (Heb. 10:29; see Mt. 22:1-8).  
*(Heb 10:29) How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?*
- B. Those who know the master's will and don't do it, as well as those who don't but do deeds worthy of a flogging will receive condemnation (Lk. 12:47,48).  
*"And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, shall receive many lashes, 48 but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.*
- C. Paul argues that the Gentiles need to respond to God because they have no excuse for not knowing God, and they have done deeds worthy of death (Rom. 1:32).  
*and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.*
- D. John cried because no one was worthy to take the book and break its seals (Rev. 5:2-4).  
*And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look into it. 4 And I began to weep greatly, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look into it;*
- E. The conclusion is that because of man's deeds God owes no one eternal life. No one is worthy!

## II. WHO IS WORTHY?

- A. God is worthy of all glory, honor, and power (Rev. 4:11).  
*"Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."*
- B. Jesus is worthy to open the book (Rev. 5:9-10, 12; Jn. 1:1, 14).  
*(Rev 5:9-10, 12) And they sang^ a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou was slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 "And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." 12 ...saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."  
(Jn 1:1, 14) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- C. The saints are worthy (Rev. 3:4).  
*'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy.'*

### III. WHY ARE THE SAINTS WORTHY?

- A. Christians are worthy to stand before and with God because of Jesus (see Rev. 5:9-10).
- B. Because of X's blood we may come out of every tribe, tongue, people, and nation to be priests and reign on the earth.
- C. Jesus was not worthy of death, so His death was to make us worthy (Lk. 23:15).  
"No, nor has Herod, for he sent Him back to us; and behold, nothing deserving death has been done by Him.

### IV. HOW DOES ONE BECOME WORTHY?

- A. A person becomes worthy (becomes a Xian or a saint) by grace through faith God's grace makes us worthy (Eph. 2:8-9).  
For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, that no one should boast.
- B. Our salvation can not be of works, because our works are sinful (Jn. 7:7).  
"The world cannot hate you; but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil."
- C. We have been (re)created in CJ for good works, we are no longer children of wrath (Eph. 2:10; 2:3).  
(Eph 2:10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.  
(Eph 2:3) Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
- D. Because of this creation in X we are now worthy, and can begin to walk in a worthy manner.

### V. CHRISTIANS MUST REMAIN WORTHY.

- A. Most of the brethren in Sardis quit their worthy walk (Rev. 3:1-2).  
"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars, says this: 'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. **2** 'Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.
- B. Non-Christians cannot walk worthily, but in Christ, we can and must (Eph. 4:1-4; Col. 1:10).  
(Eph 4:1-4) I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, **3** being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;  
(Col 1:10) so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;...
- C. Paul lists six things we must do to continue our worthy walk;
  - 1. Humility.
  - 2. Gentleness.
  - 3. Patience.
  - 4. Forbearance.
  - 5. Love.
  - 6. Diligence in preserving unity.
- D. And this worthy walk should be done at all times (Phil. 1:27).  
Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

### VI. THE REWARDS OF BEING WORTHY.

- A. Jesus, through the angel, tells of three blessings to the worthy:
  - 1. Clothed in white garments (a sinless life, see Rev. 7:14).  
And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."
  - 2. Our name will remain in the book of life (we will be faithful),
  - 3. Our name will be confessed before the Father (as one of X's), see Rev. 3:4-6.  
'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy. **5** 'He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels. **6** 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

- B. With all of these great things coming our way, why live a life of sin?

**CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Remember, Peter and John rejoiced at being counted as worthy.
- B. Let us rejoice as well.
- C. If you are outside of X, you are not worthy.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.