

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

WALK WORTHY OF THE VOCATION WHEREWITH YE ARE CALLED

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL JR.

SUNDAY MORNING, September 9, 2018

SCRIPTURE READING: **EPHESIANS 4:1-7**

Ephesians 4:1-3, *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, **2**: With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; **3**: Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the September 9, 2018 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Today the Lord has led me to preach from **Ephesians chapter 4**. I thought that solid meat from God's Word; which teaches how to live the abundant life, would be appropriate.

- b. Having reviewed the previous three chapters, we find out that they take us to the mountain peak of the transfiguration.
- d. It takes us to a high spiritual point in the New Testament. It tells about our calling and talks about the fact that we are seated in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 2:6**, *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*
- e. I don't know if believers really grasp the concept that once we are saved and born again we are placed in a position where we are seated in those Heavenly places.
- f. Today we come to the practical aspect of using what God has given to us. It is easy to teach and to explain to a team the fundamentals of the game. However, putting it in practice is something all together different.
- g. Sometimes it takes many hours of work to do this.
- h. The Lord has equipped us and given us the privilege of living the abundant life. **John 10:10**, *The thief cometh not, but for to*

steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

- i. Now we are confronted with our walk through this world; a demon possessed world, in the midst of a skeptical crowd, and sometimes even a mob of unbelievers that know not God. **Psalms 23:4**, *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*
- j. How in the world do we put all the Lord has given us into practice?
- k. Several Sunday's ago, we preached from the **Book of Joshua**, where Joshua took the Children of Israel into the promised land on the basis of the promise that God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and Moses. They were to pass over the Jordan, which is symbolic of the death burial and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is God's simple plan to save mankind.

- l. We talk a lot about the promised land, but I do not believe that the promised land is something in the future for the believer. **I believe the promised land is where we are living today. How we conduct ourselves in the land will determine our success in life.** Remember God told Joshua to meditate day and night. **Joshua 1:8, This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**
- m. That was very important for the children of Israel. They were told that if they were obedient they would be able to possess the land and it would flourish.
- n. If they were disobedient, then they would be cast out of the land. I believe the same thing happens to believers today. We have the privilege of being blessed and seated in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 1:3, *Blessed be the God and***

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

- o. God has given us that privilege. But we have to lay hold on to those blessings and put them into action. **Psalms 23:4**, *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*
- p. **Joshua 1:3**, *Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.* They had to lay hold of the land, they had to go in and actually possess it.
- q. All the spiritual blessings that we have, we have to learn how to put them into action in our lives. Our tongue and what falls from our lips play a very vital role in this endeavor. **Ecclesiastes 5:2 & 6**, *Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.* **6: Suffer not**

thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? We must continually be filled with the Holy Spirit; not gossip, not running down our brothers and sisters in Christ. Sharing old negative history about members of the church is nothing more than malicious gossip and the person who listens to such, is a partaker of the process. We must not run-down other believers in other churches. We must avoid division. **1 Corinthians 1:10**, *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.* We are commanded to talk and to think about positive things. **Philippians 4:8**, *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely,*

whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

- r. We are going to be looking at this in some detail today. As we look at the first three chapters, if you are puffed up with pride you can become a so-called super-duper saint, appearing to be very spiritual. However in actual practice very carnal. **Romans 8:6-8**, *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8: So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*
- s. It takes putting these things into action and that is where the rubber meets the road. So many people claim to be a part of the invisible church. There is a body of Christ that exists throughout the world but also the local assembly is designed for us to display our spiritual gifts as we edify and build up the body of Christ.

- t. The first step is that we must accept the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. Dead men cannot walk. We are reminded that at one time we were dead in trespasses and sins. **Ephesians 2:1**, And you hath he quickened, who were **dead in trespasses and sins**;
- u. When we accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, then we can lay hold the spiritual blessing that God has provided for us. I do not believe the child of God needs to walk through this life in a miserable condition, gripping and complaining and stressed to the max. I think there are things we are missing in our Christian walk. How do we put these things into action?
- v. The apostle Paul is going to lay them out for us in plain simple terms. **Don't miss this blessing** because it will allow you to free yourself to enjoy the abundant life that God has provided.
- w. Let's see what we can glean from God's Holy, Preserved and Precious Word today as we review **Ephesians Chapter 4.**

3. FOUR POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.

1. **Ephesians 4:1**, *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.*
2. Paul is using a term that is a transitional word. *I therefore*, it connects something that we have looked at on a previous occasion.
3. As we look back at the first three chapters we see that the Lord has taught us and equipped us to have joy unspeakable and full of glory. **1 Peter 1:8**, *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:* Now, in this chapter we have to put it into action.
4. *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord,"* - We become prisoners of the Lord because of our position in Christ Jesus.
5. We can no longer do it the way we want to, but our walk

is a walk that should please the Lord. **Proverbs 16:7**, *When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.* **Proverbs 16:25**, *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

6. We are now seated in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. It allows me to put a smile on my face each and every day regardless of the circumstances that are around me.
7. *“beseech you”* – Paul is begging us to implement, to learn, to put into practice what God has provided for us.
8. He is asking us to gently come in love. **Romans 12:1**, *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*
9. We are to walk worthy of our calling. We are called, placed and seated in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. That is our position.

10. What is our life-style like? Does it match what God has provided for us?
11. If we are new creatures in Christ, we are a new creation; God has provided that for us. **2 Corinthians 5:17**, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
12. **Philippians 1:27**, *Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;* Every single thing we do should be to glorify our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are His representatives here on earth and the unsaved world cares little about our talk; **they are watching our walk.**
13. Listen to **Colossians 1:10**, *That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

14. We are not to remain the same. We are being conformed to the image of God's Son. **We should be more Christ-like every day.** **Romans 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.*
15. **1 Thessalonians 2:10**, *Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:*
16. We are to be a testimony to those who we come in contact with, that are believers. We are in a glass house as far as the world is concerned. They are evaluating us, they are checking us out. They are watching our tracks; watching what we do and certainly what we say.
17. **1 John 1:7**, *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.* Do we enjoy

walking in the light or in the darkness? **John 3:19**, *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

18. We should have our light on at all times. **Matthew 5:16**, *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. 1* **Peter 3:15**, *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*
19. When we walk among people there should be a light that we have been with the Lord Jesus Christ. **Acts 4:13**, *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*

20. We are living in the dispensation of the grace of God. This is where **God is giving righteousness for our belief.**
21. Notice what he tells us as we live in this dispensation. He is not asking an unbeliever to do anything at all; He is instructing us as to how we, as believers are to operate in the body of Christ.

b. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering.

1. **Ephesians 4:2**, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, *forbearing one another in love; 3: Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*
2. *“Lowliness”* – Means to bring our mind low. It is the very opposite of pride. It means that we are to depend on God and implement what He has provided for us. **Proverbs 29:23**, *A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

3. Lowliness is the flagship of the Christian virtues. **Philippians 2:3**, *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.* Lowliness characterizes the action of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
4. He instructs us in **Matthew 11:29**, *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.* Christians need to rid themselves of pride. The Lord saves us and all of a sudden, we get puffed up until we are no good at all.
5. We must learn how to come forth and do those things for which we have a gift for. It is hard to get people in the church to do things for the Lord and to have proper priorities. There are some in the church who attempt to do things in which they have no gift for.
6. *“Meekness”* – speaks of mildness if you will. Being able to be a balanced person. Contrary to popular belief,

meekness is not weakness.

7. Jesus displayed meekness when He drove the money changers out of the temple. Aaron, when he was with the children of Israel, and Moses came down from the Mountain, Moses statement to the children of Israel and Aaron, represented meekness. **Matthew 21:12**, *And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, Exodus 32:19-20*, *And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. 20: And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it. Ephesians 4:26*, *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not*

the sun go down upon your wrath: This anger represents not sin, but righteous indignation.

8. As we take a stand for God, we must not compromise and submit to wrong motives and bad behavior. It means that we do what we need to do in order to accomplish God's will.
9. The Bible calls meekness the willingness to stand, to do God's will regardless of the cost.
10. Meekness, bowing ourselves to the will of God; submitting ourselves to His Word.
11. *"Longsuffering"* – this is a long temper. I have often wondered about believers who have short tempers.
Galatians 5:22-23, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23: Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*
12. *"forbearing one another in love;"* - Means to hold back from fighting back. To display at all times the spirit of love.

Colossians 3:13, *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.* We are so quick to

want to write them off and not forgive. God instructs us in

Galatians 6:1, *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

13. Restoration is what God is all about. We must remember that He provided that for us. We must speak the truth in love. **Ephesians 4:15**, *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

14. *“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* – The Lord Jesus Christ prayed for that unity. **John 17:21**, *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

15. We also find out that God has baptized us into one body.
- 1 Corinthians 12:13**, *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*
16. We are instructed to keep the unity of the Holy Spirit. God tells us in **Psalms 133:1**, *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*
17. This does not mean we go and create our own unity by joining groups that do not believe in the Deity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, do not stand on the Preserved Word of God, and do not believe in justification by faith.
18. Only the Holy Spirit can make unity. If you want to know the truth, ask the Holy Spirit. **John 16:13**, *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to*

come.

19. The Holy Spirit does not tell one of us one thing and then tell someone else another.
20. Notice that there is a list of **seven unities** that God talks about. We have examined the number seven, which means completeness.

c. There is one body, and one Spirit.

1. **Ephesians 4:4-6**, *There is one body, and one Spirit,* *even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5: One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6: One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*
2. Let's take each of these **seven** and dissect them and see if we can determine how God is instructing us to live.
3. *"One body,"* - I believe refers to the total body of believers, from Pentecost to the rapture.
4. One body is called the invisible church on many

occasions. However, all true believers must be visible in local assembly that is attempting to get the Word of God out and strengthening the saints. Getting the lost saved.

Hebrews 10:25, *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

5. *“One Spirit”* – refers to the Holy Spirit. There are not two spirits. This is the true Holy Spirit that resides in the body of the believer.
6. Several Sundays ago, we learned that the instant we are saved the Holy Spirit comes to live within us; it unifies us enabling us to display unity of the spirit.
7. The Holy Spirit is the author of the Word of God. He comes to dwell within us, so each of us has the author of the Book present all the time.
8. If you want to know the truth, ask the Holy Spirit, but be

willing to listen to the answer that He gives.

9. *“one hope of your calling;”* - refers to the goal that is set before the believer.
10. One of these days we will be taken out of the world. This is that blessed hope. **Titus 2:13**, *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*
11. *“One Lord,”* - refers to the Lord Jesus Christ. His lordship over the believer. He wants the church in unity.
12. *“one faith,”* - refers to the body of truth also called the Apostles doctrine. **Acts 2:42**, *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
13. When that truth is denied there is naturally going to be division. This is the reason why we have so many forms and interpretations today. We fail to get into the body of truth as delivered to us by the apostles. We must have correct

doctrine. We must remember that Peter was primarily the spokesman to the Jews, whereas Paul is the spokesman for the church. **John 7:17**, *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.* We must be careful to know that today it is not about sign-gifts but about correct doctrine.

14. *“one baptism,”* - has reference to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is not water baptism. We are baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. That comes the moment we are saved. **1 Corinthians 12:13**, *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*
15. It is nothing that we seek after, ask for as a second blessing; it is given the moment of salvation. **2 Corinthians 1:22**, *Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.*

16. *“One God and Father of all,”* - refers to God the Father of believers. He is not the father of unbelievers.
17. There is no such thing as the fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man. Son-ship comes only by knowing Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. Having received Him and been regenerated, it is He that provides salvation and makes us sons of God. **Romans 8:14**, *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*
18. As we look at the church; the body of Christ, it was joined together and now Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father. The church is referred to as the new man on the face of the earth.
19. It was a mystery that came forth. Both Jew and Gentile are placed in the same body and called the church. It is called the church here on earth; later on it will be known as the bride of Christ.
20. The believer is here, addressed as an individual. Then the

Lord goes to the larger sense that it involves the church, the body of Christ, the one spirit if you will.

21. This brings us to a picture of God, who is above all and through all. *“God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*
22. God is everywhere at the same time. His creation is dependent on Him for motivation, guidance, and for leadership. We must stick with the Preserved Word of God in order to get to that.
23. **Ephesians 5:19**, *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;* - We are to be happy Christians. If God has provided salvation for us, we need to rejoice in that salvation and live the abundant life.
24. *The struggles that men and women go through today are, most of the time, **self-inflicted.***
25. If we are not doing that, we are not following the rule that

God has laid down for us. Remember He deals with the individual, then the church, and then He tells us where we get our motivation and instructions.

d. But unto every one of us is given grace.

1. **Ephesians 4:7**, But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.
2. God has given believers gifts. But before He gives us gifts, He gives us grace.
3. We are saved by grace through faith. There is nothing we can do to earn salvation. **Ephesians 2:8-9**, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
Matthew 19:25-26, When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?
26: But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

4. When we think about the gifts that God has given to believers, we find those recorded in **Romans 12** and again in **1 Corinthians 12-14**.
5. Believers are given gifts in order to maintain the unity of the Spirit.
6. Not every believer is going to receive the same gift.
1 Corinthians 12:7, *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*
7. This simply means that the gift of the Spirit is something that is given to us and its express purpose is to build up the body of believers. **If it is not for profit of the whole body of Christ, it is not a gift.**
8. **No gift is given to the believer to develop us spiritually. No gift is given to us for our personal edification.**
9. So many saints go wrong on this issue. They believe they have heavenly language; there is no such thing. The Bible does not speak of it.

10. **Gifts are given to edify the body of Christ.** We will be looking at this in some detail in a few minutes.
11. Each believer has a gift that is given to him. There is no believer that does not have a gift at all.
12. Let's compare this to the body as an example. The body is composed of several elements: eyes, ears, a mind, and legs that will carry us.
13. If one member of the body decides they don't want to function, in unity with the rest of the body there is chaos.
14. This same thing comes when we exercise our spiritual gifts. If we do not use our spiritual gift that God has given us to edify and build up the body of Christ, then we have problems.
15. If there is a spiritual gift God has given to an individual, and they fail to use it, then the body of Christ as a whole suffers.
16. Soul winning is not a gift. Every believer should be a

minister in carrying out the great commission to win men and women, boys and girls to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour? If you do not know Jesus Christ as your Personal Saviour, today needs to your day of salvation. **2 Corinthians 6:2**, *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*
- b. The Bible says in **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- c. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- d. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the*

*Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10:** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

e. Would you please stand?

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