

ARE YOU WALKING WITH GOD?

Note to the speaker:

Help audience appreciate the need to center their lives on doing Jehovah's will. Emphasize need to develop trust that he knows what is best for us and that walking in his way will safeguard us now and result in eternal blessings

WALKING WITH GOD IS A UNIQUE PRIVILEGE (5 min.)

The Bible uses the word "walking" to denote following a certain course in life (Eph 4:17; 5:2; *it-1* 220)

Those walking with God follow the life course outlined by him and find favor with him (Ge 5:22-24)

They give evidence of strong faith in God (Heb 11:6; *w98* 1/15 13-14)

Courageously, they stand on the side of truth (Php 1:7; *w93* 11/15 12-13)

Walking with God means we allow him to direct our steps in the way that he approves (Jer 10:23; *w98* 1/15 18)

RESULTS OF NOT WALKING WITH GOD (5 min.)

Majority of mankind have pursued a course that is out of harmony with God's will

They have been inclined toward badness (Ro 3:15-18)

Denying Jehovah and his way has resulted in the present deplorable state of human society (Ps 14:1; 2Ti 3:1-5)

Ancient Ephesians were very much like many people today

They were materialistic, unruly, fleshly, proud, superstitious, and so forth (*it-1* 732-5)

Alienated from the life that belongs to God, they were headed for destruction (Eph 4:17-19; 5:5, 6)

Wicked world today rapidly heading toward "the day of judgment and of destruction of the ungodly men" (2Pe 3:7)

BENEFIT BY EXAMINING LIVES OF THOSE WHO WALKED WITH GOD (18 min.)

Noah walked with God (Ge 6:9)

He and his family concentrated on carrying out their God-given assignments (Ge 6:22)

Obvious that they did not perform shoddy work on ark or fail to complete it on time (Ge 7:1, 4, 5, 7)

Noah and family members did not squander time in world that was soon to end

Did not get wrapped up in everyday pursuits common to other people (Mt 24:37-39)

They rejected the immoral, violent acts of their day rather than being entertained by them (Ge 6:5, 11)

Noah had responsibilities in addition to building ark (*w90* 4/15 11-13)

He was a preacher of righteousness (2Pe 2:5)

Had to balance everyday cares with priorities of constructing ark and warning ancient world of its end

Abraham walked with God

He walked by faith, not by sight (Heb 11:8)

Abraham courageously obeyed Jehovah and displayed absolute confidence in him (Heb 11:17-19)

Demonstrated willingness to leave Ur of the Chaldeans, a city of material advantages (Ge 12:1, 4, 5; *it-2* 1141-2)

By faith Abraham "resided as an alien in the land of the promise" and looked forward to "the city having real foundations," God's heavenly Kingdom (Heb 11:9, 10)

Jehovah promised that through Abraham's seed "all nations of the earth" would bless themselves (Ge 22:18)

Noah, Abraham, and other faithful ones of old have a city made ready for them, God's Kingdom, which will rule over the earth

God is pleased to recognize them as his servants; he is not ashamed of them (Heb 11:16)

Jesus walked with God

He is Abraham's Seed and has left a model for all to follow his steps (Ga 3:16; 1Pe 2:21)

Jesus always looked to Jehovah for instruction (Joh 5:19)

Was foremost Preacher of righteousness

Made known that the truth focuses on the Messianic Kingdom of God (Joh 18:33-37)

He never put creature comforts and personal interests ahead of Kingdom interests (Lu 9:58, 62)

Jesus was a reasonable person, not antisocial (Joh 2:1, 2)

Yet, he knew what his priorities were, and he kept to them (Mt 6:33)

HOW YOU CAN WALK WITH GOD TODAY (12 min.)

Walking with God requires establishing priorities as we handle our many responsibilities

Must discern what God's will is for us today (1Jo 2:17)

Like Noah, we should keep the doing of God's will as our first priority

His will is that we preach Kingdom good news (Mr 13:10)

Jehovah approves of the sacrifices we make to advance Kingdom interests and assist others (Heb 13:15, 16)

God's will encompasses our caring for our physical needs and for our family in reasonable way (1Ti 5:8; w97 8/15 19)

Put away old personality and independent attitude promoted by world, and put on new personality created by God (Eph 4:22-24; w93 3/1 8, 10-18)

Qualities of new personality essential to walk with God (Mic 6:8)

Instead of promoting selfish worldly pursuits, new personality moves us to demonstrate our faith and practice godly ways (Jas 2:26)

Acquire the mind of Christ, imitate his attitude, and humbly submit to God's spirit-inspired Word (1Co 2:14-16; Heb 10:7)

In Paul's day some were not stabilized in faith and lacked spirituality

They were easily swayed by unscriptural opinions (Col 2:8)

Vital to keep strict watch on how we walk and to be reasonable, yielding to the will of God (Eph 5:15-17)

ACT NOW TO ENJOY THE UNIQUE PRIVILEGE OF WALKING WITH GOD (5 min.)

Imitate faith of Noah and Abraham, and follow in footsteps of Jesus (Heb 12:1-3)

Be like Noah, and concentrate on living and working in way that pleases God and leads to life

Like Abraham, be willing to make sacrifices

Look to "city" that has real foundations, the Kingdom

Imitate Jesus, and live for the doing of God's will (Joh 4:34; 6:38)

Our reward is enjoying the best way of life possible now and prospect of being concealed in coming day of Jehovah's anger (Zep 2:3)

May it be your determination to walk in the name of Jehovah God forever (Mic 4:5)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)