"Walk Worthy of the Calling"

by Wayne Goff

The church at Ephesus was one of the strongest churches of the first century. They had strong elders (see Acts 20:16-38). The organization was scriptural and their work second to none (see Rev. 2:2-3). Today, we would call them a "sound church."

If you want to see **how** they became that kind of a congregation, begin with Acts 19 where Paul came to Ephesus and found *"some disciples"* (v. 1). He corrected their mistaken baptisms because they were *receptive to the truth* and *to any needed change*. The teaching of Paul confirmed by the working of profound miracles solidified the church there and converted many (vv. 8-12). Error was defeated publicly so that the word of the Lord grew mightily in Ephesus (vv. 9-20).

That the city of Ephesus and the church there were *unique* in the first century is obvious to any reader of Acts 19-20 and the book of Ephesians. Much in the spirit realm was going on then, both positively and negatively. Naturally, God's Cause won out because *"because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world"* (1 Jn. 4:4).

With that background, we should sit up and take notice when the great apostle Paul admonishes the brethren there to *"walk worthy of the calling with which you were called"* (Eph. 4:1). **There is a certain way that Christians must conduct themselves if the church is to continue strong and effective**. The **attitudes** are *"lowliness and gentleness, ...longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"* (Eph. 4:2-3). Brethren, are those your attitudes today in this congregation? They must be! The **standard** is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God (Eph. 4:4-6). Brethren, is this your standard today as a part of this congregation? Again, it must be!

The church for which Jesus died is precious. It is made up of many varied kinds of people. It must be preserved at all costs by each of us walking as Christians must walk. *Be sure your walk is worthy!*

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