



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Ephesians, Chapter 4

Believer's Response to God's Calling (Part I)

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

Chapters 1-3: Spiritual Blessings, and Strong Foundation for Christian Journey of Faith

Chapters 4-6: Believer's Response to Heavenly Calling & Blessings/Foundations of Ch.1-3

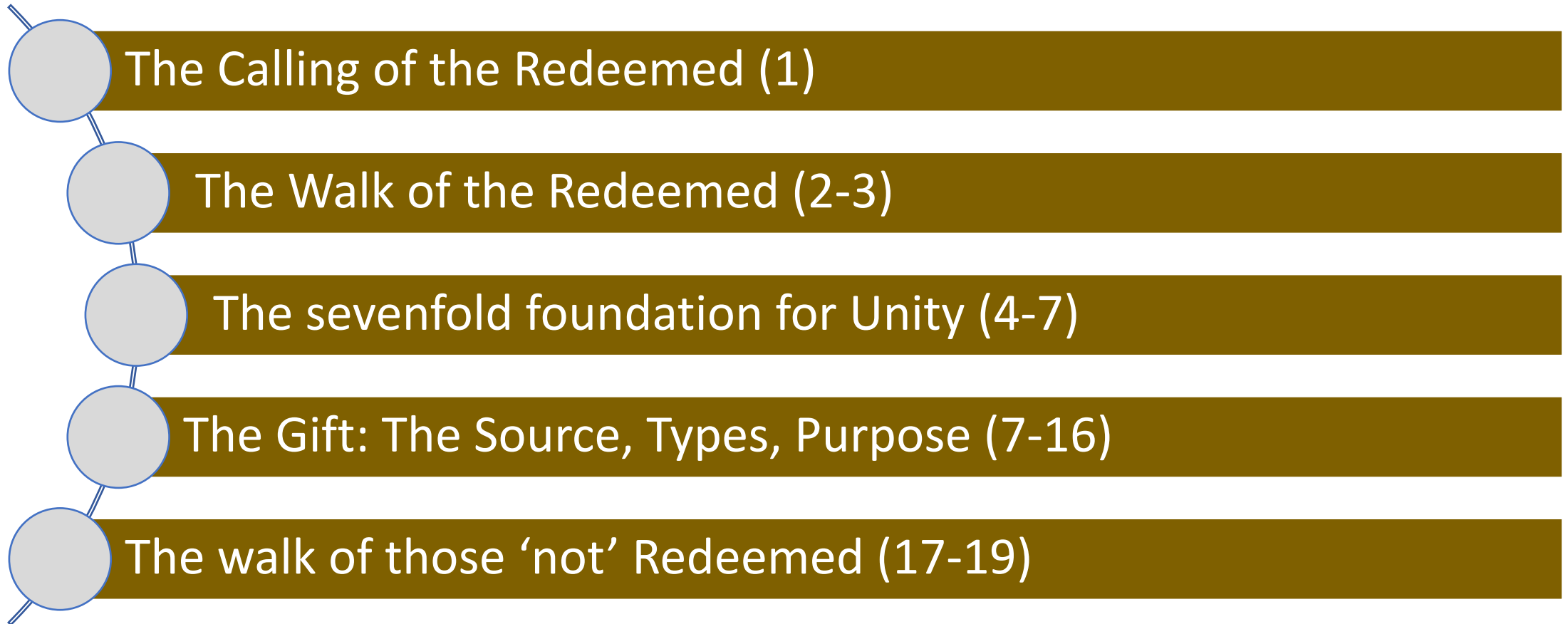
Calling of the Redeemed (1-3): What is a Christian called to do? When does the call begin? How should a believer walk? What should motivate such a walk? **Unity (4-6):** What is the basis for our unity? Why do we still have conflicts? Is unity same as uniformity?

The Gift (7-16): Who is the giver of the gift? What is the nature of gift Paul mentions here? How are these gifts supposed to operate? What goals are these gifts supposed to accomplish? When can we consider the church growth to be healthy? **Walk of Gentiles (17-19):** How is walk of sinners different from those of the redeemed?

Personal Reflection: *Does our walk resemble the believer's walk or sinner's walk?*

6.2.21

Ephesians 4 (part I, verses 1-19)



The Call & Walk of the Redeemed (1-3)

Believer Blessed with all Spiritual Blessings (Chapters 1-3)

... Blessings demand a Response (chapters 4-6)

Believer's response will impact personal life, family life, and church life (Chapters 4-6)

Paul's Appeal (1)

Paul is “BESEECHING” believers

- To **Walk WORTHY** of the Calling
- To Walk => action word ... **Walking is Living** the believer's life
- Our calling begins with our gospel call
 - **Philippians 3:12-14** (high calling) | **Peter 2:9-10** (called out of darkness to marvelous light) | **Philippians 1:27**, | **Thessalonians 2:12** (walk worthy of gospel)
- “Walk” mentioned 7 times in Ephesians (2:2, 10; 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15)

How to Walk? (2-3)

- Lowliness – Humility, Subjection
- Longsuffering – Patience when provoked
- Tolerating one another in love
- Striving to maintain unity in the bond of peace
 - Not easy to practice
 - Walk can be accomplished only by His grace in the power of the Holy spirit
 - Motivation for Christian walk: The Cross (Romans 12:1)

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves” (**Philippians 2:3**)

What makes us One?

Sevenfold foundation for Christian Unity (4-6)

What is the basis for our unity?

Why do we still have conflicts?

Is unity same as uniformity?

What makes us One?

Sevenfold foundation for Christian Unity (4-6)



UNITY does not mean
“uniformity”
by compromising scriptures

**The foundation for Unity is given by God,
and not developed by Man**

Sevenfold basis for Christian Unity (4-6)

- **One body** (the Church of the redeemed)
 - Christ will return for His Church, His bride Not denomination or individuals
- **One Spirit**
 - Same Holy spirit given to individuals (I Corinthians 6:19) & Church (I Corinthians 3:16)
- **One Hope**
 - Living Hope (I Peter 1:3) of His return and spending eternity in His presence
- **One Lord**
 - **I Corinthians 8:5,6** For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many) But to us there is but **one God**, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and **one Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom are all things, and we by him.

Sevenfold basis for Christian Unity (4-6)

- **One Faith**

- Salvation through faith (Ephesians 2:8), must earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 3), keep the faith (II Timothy 4:7)

- **One Baptism**

- Public testimony of new life in Christ (Acts 2:37-41)
- Death and burial of old self, and rising to a new life

- **One God and Father**

- who is far above all (supreme)
- through all (acts through us all to accomplish his purpose), and
- in you all (dwells in believers all the time)

Why do we still have
conflicts in churches?

The Gift (7-16)

Giver of Gifts

Types of Gifts

Purpose of Gifts

Goal of Gifts

The giver of Gift (7)

- Grace is given to all (7) according to the measure of the gift of Christ
- Spiritual gifts are not the same as natural talents. Gift is not earned by any man. God decides.
- We must **use the gifts** lovingly, humbly, diligently, and wisely **to** glorify God and strengthen the church.
- To learn more on gifts: Read Romans 12:3-8, I Corinthians 12

The giver of Gift (7)

Giver of gifts - Victorious and Glorified Christ

- Descended to the manger through virgin birth, and then to depth of the depth of the tomb, then resurrected and ascended on high to heavenly places
- Christ conquered sin, death, satan, and rose far above all, and fills all things (His fullness, Colossians 1:19; 2:9)
 - Gift of Holy Spirit and formation of church was sparked by the ascension of Christ.

Five fold spiritual/leadership gifts for ministering in Church (11)

Apostles

- Appointed/called out by the Lord
- Built on the foundation of Christ to preach and plant churches (**Ephesians 2:19-20**)

Prophets

- Communicate the message of God (not just predicting the future)
“He who prophesies speaks edification, exhortation, and consolation” (**I Corinthians 14:3**)

Five fold spiritual/leadership gifts for ministering in Church

Evangelists

- Gifted in communicating the gospel message
- While all should witness, some are uniquely gifted in sharing the gospel

Pastors

- Shepherds/elders in the church to provide counsel, correct, strengthen
- Feed the sheep and protect the sheep (Acts 20:28-30)

Teachers

- Gifted to expound the Word of God

Why are gifts given? (12)

Equipping all the saints so that they may grow in maturity

Equipped saints **serve** in the ministry

The serving edifies and **strengthens** the local church

EQUIPPING/Training → Qualified to SERVE → STRONG church

(church becomes weak when saints are not equipped well
or equipped saints are not given an opportunity to serve)

Desired outcomes from operation of the Gifts (13-16)

Goals (13-14):

- Reach UNITY of the Faith (or spiritual unity)
- Grow in the knowledge of the son of God
 - Growth to the fullness of measure of Jesus himself
 - Shed childishness - immaturity, instability, failing victims to false teaching
 - Maturity (Colossians 1:28, 4:12; Hebrews 5:13,14; Hebrews 6:1) Growth (Ephesians 2:21-22)

When will these goals be attained?

Healthy Growth (15-16)

Speak the truth in Love

- Do not compromise/lie about core doctrines/teachings of our faith
- Jesus said, “I am the truth”(John 14:6); Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44)

Direction of Growth - towards the Head (Jesus is the goal of our growth and also the source of our growth)

Scope of Growth - all members must grow and contribute to the effective growth of local assembly. Members must not be spectators. Everyone has a role to play.

- Organic growth occurs when all members exercise their gifts (similar to how the physical body grows)

Walk of Gentiles (17-19)

How is walk of sinners different from those of the redeemed?

The walk of Gentiles (17-19)

Darkness of mind/understanding:

- To know God is wisdom (Proverbs 9:10) Fools say there is no God (Psalms 53:1) Wisdom shown by works (James 3:13)
- If a brilliant person is not saved, they are foolish and their understanding is darkened and their life is alienated from God.

Blindness of heart

- A heart that is not responsive to God's voice leads to moral failures (Mathew 15:18-19)

Personal Reflection

How is your walk?