

# “WALK BEFORE THE LORD”

## INTRODUCTION

(Read Psa. 116:9). In this passage, David spoke of 2 things: (1) *“Walking before the Lord,”* and (2) *“The land of the living.”* Everyone walks before the Lord, for He sees and knows all, whether we are walking in **sin** or **righteousness**. As long as we are in the “land of the living” we will walk in one way or the other; OR we will, as responsible people who have already walked in “sin” begin walking in “righteousness” IF we choose to do so. This lesson will be a study of our *“Walk Before the Lord”* AS those who have obeyed the gospel of God.

## DISCUSSION

### I. In the 1<sup>st</sup> place, we walk in the FEAR OF GOD. Acts 9:31

- A. This means we are to **believe** that He exists. Heb. 11:6; cf 2 Cor. 5:7
1. Millions of people do not know or believe in the existence of God, and some even argue that there IS no God, and that man evolved from lower forms of life.
  2. The creation and magnificence of the universe, with the sun, moon, and stars, ought to be clear evidence of God’s existence. Rom. 1:20
  3. An atheist once called Dr. Ben Carson a “moron” for believing in God, to which Dr. Carson replied, *“I believe I came from God, and you believe you came from a monkey, and you’ve convinced me you’re right.”*
- B. Walking before the Lord also means that we are to be **obedient** to His commands. Eccl. 12:13-14; Matt. 7:21; 1 John 4:3
1. God commands us to repent of our sins. Acts 17:30
  2. God also commands us to be baptized (immersed) to get into His Son so we become His children and walk in newness of life, or righteousness. Acts 10:48; Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 6:3-4

### II. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> place, our walk INVOLVES THREE STAGES.

- A. First, our walk was in **times past**. Eph. 2:2; 1 Pet. 4:3
- B. Second, our walk is in the **present**.
1. We are no longer to dwell on the “past”, OR to live in the “present” **as if** that is all there is to life.
  2. Some are SO involved with the “present” that they do not even think about or care about the future. Luke 8:14-15
    - a. Some are so grossly involved in the “cares” of this life, that they often find the ox in the ditch on the Lord’s day and are unable to attend worship, to the neglect of their souls.
    - b. More and more they find the ox in the ditch until he never seems to get out, and eventually, zeal for the Lord disappears, and they never find time to worship God, and they die out of the Lord.
    - c. Martha was rebuked by the Lord for being “careful” a matter (thought not sinful in itself) to the neglect of a spiritual matter. Luke 10:38-42
    - d. Jesus said we should always put the Lord first. Matt. 6:33
- C. Third, we are to walk with a view of the **future**. Matt. 6:19-21
1. This is based on our **faith** in God’s existence.
  2. This is also based on our **desire** to have real life beyond the grave.

3. This is also based on the **promise** of God FOR this life. Tit. 1:2
4. This is also based on the **hope** for a realization of heaven. Tit. 1:2; Col. 1:5; 1 Pet. 1:3-5
- 5 This is also based on our desire to **please** God at all times. 1 Thess. 4:1

#### **CONCLUSION**

I. Illus. In the Big Ben Tower in London, England is one of the oldest and largest clocks in the world. It was built in the mid-nineteenth century, and weighs some 5 tons. In 15 minutes after the hour, there are 4 tones sounded, and then every 15 minutes thereafter until the hour is up, there are an additional 4 tones added. By hearing these tones one can determine the time of each hour. Words have been formed to these Westminster Chimes. The first quarter hour tones represent the words **“All through this hour.”** On the half hour are 4 additional tones representing the words **“Lord Be My Guide”** which follow a repeat of the first 4 tones. Then, at the three-quarter hour, 4 more tones are heard which represent the words **“That by Thy Power.”** Then, ON THE HOUR, all 3 collection of tones are sounded consecutively by an additional collection of 4 tones representing the words **“No Foot Shall Slide.”** Then, immediately the clock sounds a tone for the particular hour of the day. *This is repeated every hour of the day for every year, and has been continuously done for almost 2 centuries.*

The words taken together are: **“All through this hour, Lord be my guide, that by thy power, no foot shall slide,”** reminding us of the Lord’s power to guide our feet lest we slide away from Him.

In millions of homes throughout the land, there are Grandfather Clocks and other wall clocks where these tones are heard every hour. As we journey through life toward heaven, these tones should remind us of our daily walk before the Lord “in the land of the living” as stated by David in Psa. 116:9.

- A. If we walk toward heaven, we must follow the Lord who has gone to heaven as our forerunner, lest we slide back or slide down in the present.
- B. If we walk backward or stop walking in the present, we will not be walking forward toward heaven.

II. If you have not yet begun your journey toward heaven by becoming a Christian, or if you have stopped your journey for some reason, and need to get back on the road, we invite and encourage you to respond to the invitation, as we stand together and sing the song of invitation. Won’t you come now!

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