

# Words of Life

Westside church of Christ

Sept. 10, 2017

Vol. 9, No. 31



**“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68)**

**Walk Worthy of God**  
Craig Thomas

At first glance, a false humility would say, “No one can do that. No one can ‘walk worthy of God!’” True, by and of ourselves we cannot walk worthy of God. However, in some way it must be possible, for the word of God demands it of us. “I...beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called” (Eph. 4:1). Paul prayed, “that you might walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects” (Col. 1:10). The Spirit exhorted the Thessalonians to “walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory” (1 Thess. 2:12). Let’s “search the scriptures” (Acts 17:11) for more.

1) **Cannot be done without God’s grace.** Apart from the grace of God and the blood of Christ, no man can “walk worthy of the Lord” (Heb. 4:16; 1 Jn. 1:7). Apart from repentance, confession, and prayer, no man can “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord” (1 Jn. 1:7-2:2; Acts 8:22). Trusting our own strength alone dooms us to failure, “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13). But we must remember that we “can do all things through Christ who strengthens” us (Phil. 4:13). God’s ability to help us “walk worthy” is unimaginably powerful! For He “is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Eph. 3:20). Do you trust His power?

***“I beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.”***

**Ephesians 4:1**

2) **A decision we must make, a path we must take.** It’s true we cannot walk worthy of God without His help, but there are still choices we must make; paths we must take, and pitfalls we must avoid. Temptations, snares of the devil all lie in ambush waiting to entrap us. Fiery, deceitful darts of lust are thrust at us, and while we have the assurance of the power of His might, it is here that we must decide whether we shall “walk worthy of God.” One of the greatest assurances we have is that, “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond

## Trends

0.8% of total news coverage in the media in 2009 was devoted to religion, down from 1% in 2008. During the same period in 2009, 1.1% of the total news coverage was devoted to the death of Michael Jackson.

via Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism

**Mark 8:36-37:** “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul.”

## Sentence Sermons

**“It’s not so important who starts the game but who finishes it.”**  
—John Wooden

## News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Please pray for my son and his wife as they seek to start a new congregation in northern Michigan. Please pray Ryan can raise enough support to do this important work.

Thanks for prays for Dawne! She seems to be fully recovered from her eye surgery!

Please pray for our upcoming gospel meeting October 8-13. My son, Ryan, will be doing the preaching.

Please keep sisters Virginia Brown and Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Their faithfulness sets such a good example and gives encouragement to all! Ditto for Al (our Barnabas!).

Pray for Hatti and her “new life” in Texas! We wish her only the very best and will miss her “something fierce”!

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people are now back to school. Pray for Zach as he goes away to basic training in the U.S. Army.

There are many needy saints! Can you help?! Let me know.

Words of Life is published by the Westside Church of Christ meeting at 1301 N. Enterprise, Bloomington, IN 47404

**Times of Service:** Bible Study, Sunday 9:30 AM and Wednesday 7:00 PM; Worship, Sunday 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

**Editor:** Craig Thomas (812-320-9569); [craigthomas82000@gmail.com](mailto:craigthomas82000@gmail.com)

Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Cor. 10:13). Thus, here is presented for us the point where we shall know if we "walk worthy of God." He makes the way, the door of escape, but he does not force us to open it and walk through, that's our choice. At this juncture, it is up to us whether or not we'll "work out [y]our own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12) or give in to our "own desires" and sin (Jas. 1:12-15). We are challenged to "choose you this day whom ye will serve" (Josh. 24:15). Only when we choose the "way of escape" can it be said that we "walk worthy of the Lord."

Paul's entreaty to "walk worthy" in the Ephesian letter is surrounded by a detailed description of what constitutes worthy and unworthy behavior (Eph. 4:1,17-6:17). We urge you to read and decide which way you will walk, whether it shall be worthy or unworthy. In his Colossian prayer Paul appeals for a "worthy" walk which is bolstered by the inner, spiritual strength derived from the word of God (Col. 1:5-11; 3:16). In the Thessalonian text Paul tenderly appeals as a gentle, nursing mother and a kind, compassionate father that we "walk in a manner worthy" of God (1 Thess. 2:7-12).

We implore all, our readers and ourselves, to "examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves" (2 Cor. 13:5). Do you/we dishonor and disgrace Him, putting Him to an open shame? The choice is ours, walk worthy or unworthy, inherit heaven or hell. Which will we choose?

### A Problem No Skeptic Can Explain

Wayne Jackson

The writers of the gospel testify with their lives to the accuracy and inspiration of the Bible.

The writers of the Gospel accounts – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – quite definitely affirm that Jesus Christ claimed to be the Son of God, and that he performed miracles to authenticate that affirmation.

Further, they allege that even though Jesus was put to death on the cross, after three days he came out of the grave, thus, forcefully demonstrating that he is Jehovah's beloved Son, and that his authority must be respected. There is really no dispute about what the record claims.

How do skeptics address these historical records? Generally speaking, they assert that the New Testament writers fabricated the accounts. The writers knew that Jesus did not do these things; they simply invented the stories.

**How do skeptics address these historical records? Generally speaking, they assert that the New Testament writers fabricated the accounts.**

Will this charge stand up in the light of logical inquiry? Let us think about it for a moment.

Logically speaking, either there is existence after death or there is not.

If there is post-death existence, there either is accountability for one's earthly conduct, or there is not. The "law of the excluded middle" demands one or the other. If there is no post-earthly existence, it matters not what one does in this life. If, however, one believes that he will be held accountable for his earthly conduct in eternity, he will be more inclined to act in a morally responsible way in this life.

Now, reflect upon the implications of this principle in light of the charge that the New Testament writers lied about the events in the life of Christ.

If they believed in eternity and accountability before God, why would they falsify the records regarding Jesus, knowing that such lies would exclude their entrance into heaven? Lying is conceded to be unethical universally, and, according to the Scriptures, liars will be excluded from heaven (Rev. 21:8).

**If, however, one believes that he will be held accountable for his earthly conduct in eternity, he will be more inclined to act in a morally responsible way in this life.**

On the other hand, if the Gospel writers did not believe in eternal accountability, and so, they callously fabricated the documents that affirmed Jesus' divine nature, why would they have subjected themselves to the persecution that accompanied Christianity, since "this life" would be all they believed they would ever enjoy?

The "infidel" theory makes no sense at all. This is a problem that no skeptic can explain. The New Testament documents are reliable!

from *The Beacon* (electronic edition; 3/16/05)

### Divorce Times Four

Bob Hines

Jesus is very clear about those who take marriage vows lightly as if they can be dismissed: "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." (Matthew 19:9, NKJV)

It is entirely possible that four people could ultimately lose their souls because of what one person did when he put away his spouse. Count them with me . . . The man who divorced his wife without scriptural cause . . . the one whom he marries . . . the one whom he divorced . . . the one that she marries . . . four people lost . . .

Let all of us who are married keep our word (our vows) to each other with all the strength that God has given.