

## **“THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER IN CHRIST”**

### **EPHESIANS 4:1-3**

INTRO: There are many people who would say they are “BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST” who may NOT actually be BELIEVERS IN CHRIST at all, at least in the BIBLICAL SENSE. A genuine BELIEVER IN CHRIST is NOT one who just recognizes that Jesus: 1) Existed as a prophet or religious teacher, or 2) Died for His cause, or 3) Taught great principles for life, or is 4) Savior of the world. A TRUE BELIEVER IN CHRIST is one who **HAS PERSONALLY TRUSTED CHRIST ALONE TO SAVE HIM FROM HIS SINS, HAS BECOME BORN AGAIN SPIRITUALLY, HAS AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, HAS A NEW PATTERN OF LIVING, AND HAS THE ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD IN HEAVEN.** As a result of that condition A TRUE BELIEVER IN CHRIST has a LIFE that is DISTINCT and SEPARATE from the rest of the world in position and purpose. Every book of the Bible speaks of the LIFE OF THE BELIEVER in a unique way but the Book of Ephesians clearly teaches about the POSITION OF THE BELIEVER IN CHRIST (Chs. 1-3) and the PRACTICE OF THE BELIEVER IN CHRIST (Chs. 4-6). The first three verses of chapter 4 of Ephesians lays the foundation of what the PRACTICE OF THE TRUE BELIEVER IN CHRIST looks like. That is what we shall study in this sermon today.

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#### **I. THE POSITION OF THE TRUE BELIEVER – VS. 1a**

##### **“PRISONER OF THE LORD”**

- A. Purchased By Christ Through Redemption – Ephesians 1:7
- B. Prepared By Christ for Living – Colossians 2:10
- C. Predestined By Christ for Service – Ephesians 1:5

ILLUSTRATION:

#### **II. THE PRACTICE OF THE TRUE BELIEVER – VS. 1b**

##### **“WALK WORTHY OF THE VOCATION WHEREWITH YE ARE CALLED”**

##### A. The Worthy Walk of the True Believer

(A Moment by Moment Life Style)

- 1. A Walk that is Pleasing to God – Colossians 1:10
  - a. With Spiritual Fruit
  - b. With Spiritual Growth
- 2. A Walk that is Portraying God – 1 Thessalonians 2:12

-A daily life style living out the principles of the Kingdom of God to the Glory of God.

##### B. The Wonderful Calling of the True Believer

(A Vocation – “A Function to be performed”)

- 1. We have a Holy Calling – 2 Timothy 1:9

-Not through our own works or for our own purpose but by the Holy Spirit so that we will perform the purposes of God in our life.

- 2. We have a Humble Calling – 1 Corinthians 1:26,27

-We are called NOT because of our spiritual goodness, but because of our spiritual depravity. That is **we cannot save ourselves. Only God can save!**

- 3. We have a Heavenly Calling – Philippians 3:14

-We are called to FULFILL the work of Heaven on Earth.

ILLUSTRATION:

#### **III. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE TRUE BELIEVER – VSS. 2,3**

##### **WE ARE CALLED TO SHOW THE QUALITIES OF CHRIST IN OUR LIFE**

NOTE: In the language of the text please note the use of the word “ALL.” It is used once but is applicable to every statement on the PERFORMANCE of the True Believer listed in the text.

##### A. With All Lowliness (To portray humility)

- 1. The Humility of Christ – Philippians 2:5-8
- 2. The Humility of the Christian – James 4:10

B. With All Meekness (Power under control manifested by no RETALIATION toward others and no REBELLION toward God.)

- 1. The Meekness of Christ – Matthew 11:29
- 2. The Meekness of the Christian – Galatians 5:23

- C. With All Longsuffering (To be “long-tempered” which is the opposite of “short tempered.”)
  - 1. The Longsuffering of Christ – 2 Peter 3:9
  - 2. The Longsuffering of the Christian – 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- D. With All Forbearance (Personal patience under a period of pro-longed provocation – Continuing to love difficult people.)
  - 1. The Forbearance of Christ – Luke 22:24
  - 2. The Forbearance of the Christian – Colossians 3:13
- E. With all Effort to Keep Unity (NOT to MAKE unity, but to KEEP that UNITY which Christ has created {Ephesians 2:14-16} and to no allow anything to divide or disrupt that UNITY.
  - 1. The Unity Christ Created – Romans 12:5
  - 2. The Unity Christians Experience – 1 Corinthians 12:12,13

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON/APPLICATION:

The life of the TRUE BELIEVER IN CHRIST is totally different from the life of the UNBELIEVER. The TRUE BELIEVER belongs to Christ and is to REFLECT Christ in every aspect of life.

- 1) Is there any part of YOUR life that does not reflect Christ?
- 2) Ask the Lord to give you the strength to make the changes necessary to reflect Christ to the world around you.