

Bible Basics Conference 2009: "Walk Worthy of the Calling!"

Part 13

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Note: This text is a computer generated transcript of the sermon. In some cases it may contain errors.

[00:00:00] Shall we just begin with a word of prayer before we start our next sessions. Our God and Father we continue to ask thy help as we open thy word and as we seek to lay ourselves open before thyself that the spirit may take thy word and show it to us that we may have listening ears open hearts to receive thy word and we pray that as we go through these practical questions that our hearts may be open to thee and that we may be subject to thy word and subject to thee and so we just ask for help and guidance upon all what we do for the rest of this afternoon as we have had thy blessing to now we commit ourselves into thy hand for the guiding of the Holy Spirit in everything we do as we ask it in Jesus precious name amen perhaps we could read our verses in Ephesians chapter six [00:01:08] chapter six and verse one children obey your parents in the lord for this is right honor thy father and mother which is the first commandment with promise that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth and ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the lord servants be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh with fear and trembling in singleness of your heart as unto christ not with eye service as men pleases but as the servants of christ doing the will of god from the heart with goodwill doing service as to the lord and not to men knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth the same shall he receive of the lord whether he be bond or free [00:02:07] ye masters do the same things unto them forbearing threatening knowing that your master also is in heaven neither is there respect of persons with him so we continue in our practical part of this epistle and i've entitled this living the calling we've already spoke about our life in this world and our life as husbands and wives and here we come to a practical matter of families and work something which is every day which we're involved and we come to the meeting like this we come to conferences for a few hours a few days maybe in a few days maybe in the year but for the rest of the while we're engaged in our normal business [00:03:04] we can be at home with our family we can be at work earning our living and there the question is whether we are living out these real um principles these wondrous truths that we have in this beginning of of ephesians and before i go any further in case i forget i'd just like to say you know we have we are talking about serious things we have looked at some very amazing truths at the beginning of the book and if these things are going to be really mean something to us we have to individually on our own before the lord face up to them go over them meditate upon them ask the lord to show them to us and you look at those things in chapter one and going on into chapter two and chapter three those wondrous blessings that god has given [00:04:01] and before the lord ask him to show them to us that we may work them out in our lives in prayer and meditation before him just face up to what he really has done for us and the real marvel of these blessings and when we think of

those things then we think of what our response should be and how this should work out so taking up this chapter six we come to some very very practical things we've spoken about husbands and wives and in some ways i was just wondering how much rusty was going to venture into into chapter six talking about parents but i don't think he took too much of my ground but here we have in our everyday lives we're living under new authority we have this children obey your parents in the lord and simon spoke about paul who was a prisoner in the lord and so we have to come to this decision that christ is our lord [00:05:07] and we can only do that as we think of who he is and what he has done for us and then we in practical realization that we are dead that we the old us is finished with now the only christ should be living in us then we can live out these good works for which we have created in christ jesus we spoke in chapter two of what we were then with our conversation in the lust of the flesh doing what the flesh and the thoughts will to do but then later on we are his workmanship curated in christ jesus unto good works and so here we have how these good works work out in our practical everyday lives and the family is a very we have four subjects here and perhaps i'll just go on to the next slide um talking about the lordship of christ we have four subjects we only have half an hour but we have four subjects but thankfully we don't have too many verses [00:06:03] to look at and i want to especially go through these first two children and parents because we are all we're all been children many of us here are parents some would aspire to be parents and these are things that we know about every day we live in families god has given us this wonderful blessing of living in families and this is where we work these things out now i had i would like to read something in the calendar oh lord is near calendar which um you can get on your computer every day if you haven't got a printed copy um rk campbell wrote an article on the 14th of november and perhaps you'd like to check it out for yourself uh talking about when israel had light in their dwellings in the family i'd like to read the last part of this of this portion where he spoke speaks about the practical working out of family life and he says this talking about the dark world in which we live and the and what [00:07:02] the family is like in this situation and he says thus in the mutual care of the family members one for another and in the daily exercise of practical self-denial the natural heart's detestable selfishness may be checked and frustrated and then the family relationships of obedience and love and the daily practice of submitting one to another which these relationships necessity necessitate wholesomely counter counterbalance that root sin of all mankind's evil self-will and disobedience so there rk campbell speaks about some of those things were necessary for family life to be realized as it should be under god that exercise of self-denial and we've roughly mentioned about being submissive one to another which is something which we have to [00:08:05] put into practice in the husband and wife relationship but also is for our exercise in the family and also in other spheres also so we start off with children and we ask two questions obedience why this chapter starts off not with any therefore we've had before or for this or it just starts off children so we've got to the end of the epistle nearly and here we have children and then it says and ye fathers and then it says servants and then masters by the time we've got to this passage at the end we should understand that these are instructions from the lord to us and if we have grasped something of the blessings that god has given us in christ then we should be ready to listen to hear his word when paul was on the damascus road [00:09:05] and he saw that light from heaven and we've thought about heavenly blessings that paul had that realization of he saw the lord on the damascus road that tremendous light and he said those words lord what will thou have me to do he was ready to listen he was ready to abide and so when we grasp something of what god is and what the lord jesus is and what he has done for us then we come to these scriptures we are ready to listen children obey your parents and it goes on to say honor thy father and mother now we know that when we look at family life today the the media or that we see all around us and we we need to be careful that we're not too exposed to the world around us because it is pumping images at us that are not helpful [00:10:03] for christian living but when the media wants to sell something to us it shows a beautiful family usually one husband and a wife and

two children a boy and a girl all looking happy and sweet and nice and daughter looking up into mum's eyes and and a beautiful background and this is how it portrays family life but in its stories in its plays and soap operas and things it gives a completely different image of everybody trying to get their own better over everybody else where we have the the cross look and we have the slam door and we have kids going out the door and grabbing their coat and shaping something back at their parents and we have families in disarray everybody trying to get their own advantage over the other and this is the world in which we live and therefore we need to be sure that we're not exposed to that kind of image [00:11:05] because god wants something better for us the blessing of a christian family or the blessing of us living as a christian in a family whether that be a christian family or not now we have many scriptures which tell us of the that god wants us to honor our father and mother the scripture here records that god gave a promise with this when he gave the law that they would live long in the earth it was the first commandment that had a promise it was important to god and we have the parallel passage in colossians children obey your parents children obey your parents in all things for this is well pleasing to the lord we have the the evidence of the breakdown of this world where we see disobedient to parents coming in all around us and there were some very serious things said in deuteronomy about those that [00:12:04] rebelled against their parents god has made it clear what his will is and we need to take god seriously at his word i seem to have a blockage right okay obedient to parents so there we have in this one father and mother brought in children obey your parents in the lord so we have father and mother and we are as children to obey our parents not to work one against another not to try to listen to whichever is the easiest path and we'll try and get round one and get round the other no we are to buy our parents as one it's god given authority right it's not something to get one over it's god [00:13:02] given authority it's god's order in creation and that is what god has laid out and what a wonderful thing it is when it's put right we've spoken about heard about husbands and wives what a blessing is when it's in god's order and here is god's given authority so we do well to be very careful when we say no to god's authority adam and eve in the garden they were given one commandment and they disobey children you are given one commandment in the scriptures to obey your parents it's god's authority we know the world cannot buy this but as christians we have the holy spirit as jeff was talking about us talking to us about and we can carry this out with his help god's order is for a reason children are children and so god has placed these things there for a reason is a simple principle [00:14:03] they know where they stand they're still immature they know where they stand so therefore god gives us a clear framework it's also a solid foundation you know we do children are still learning parents have had some more experience and so god has put it the parents take the responsibility and children can get on with living and growing up all they have to do is obey what their parents say there is a it's it's a it's god's goodness to us it's god's order and it's a blessing we see children around us who have no order to their lives they don't know where they stand they don't know what mum wants them to do what dad wants them to do they don't know what they can get away with they try as far as they can and they don't have any framework we need a framework god has brought that in and it's very healthy we can have love one another if our children obey we can love them how rich it is when god's order is in place love can flourish we must press on [00:15:08] and it's a training environment the reason that children to obey their parents is because the parents are given responsibility to bring children up for him they're given a responsibility under god the god who gives us children he gives us that us with our responsibility to bring them up for him in the nurture and admonition of the lord we are told here especially to fathers later later on but it's a training environment a framework for growing up so that children will eventually become mature mature and only in natural things but mature in the things of god to value those things so they can grow up to become independent to take their own decisions and to be here for god and to live their lives in a mature way and that's why why children are in this situation and of course we know that there is a there is a progression and as our children [00:16:02]

grow older so they get more responsibility until they're able to take their own decisions and come to value things that are of true value and be able to have children of their own to impart those things on these are these are responsibilities of life life is not a picnic you know we're here for a reason and if we have children we might want want to get married and the wonderful thing we carried away with all the tremendous feelings and everything but but family life is a big thing rusty was talking about we we leave our father and mother we take on the responsibility of a wife we take on responsibility of children it's a responsibility but it's a responsibility which is really worthwhile it really pays dividends you know my daughter told me last night not to say anything embarrassing i'm not going to say anything embarrassing but one of my sons and i know all my children he said to me last night dad i'll be praying for you and that really means something when you know [00:17:04] your kids are praying for you you know that that they've grown up they're not children anymore they're able to value things that are of value so children get on your knees before the lord and see how it works out this is what the lord wants us to do to practically realize christianity and we must pass on because i have a lot of slides and i'm gonna have to go through quickly but now it comes down to me and well fathers rusty did mention that fathers are not really thought much of in the world today but god has placed fathers in this position of responsibility and authority in the family because god's order and framework is the best and that's where it works and god has placed us in that position and we have to take it seriously and we have the qualification for an elder in [00:18:03] first timothy is one who can get to conduct his own house well having his children's objection with all gravity where the household is in order and that is a very big challenge to any of us who would desire to have responsibility in the things of god it's a despised role in the world as i said often the wife just takes over and the father's too busy with his work and just get on with everything and the husband just comes home and sits down and wants to take it easy but you know the bible gives us the father's role is very important the wife certainly has a role a very important role and perhaps because that role is sort of automatically understood that we we have the instructions to fathers here a wife has the quantity and she sees the children and there's a natural instinct to look after the children and maybe there's more quality too indeed i'm sure of that but there is a position and a place for a [00:19:07] father and so the scripture tells us here fathers provoke not your children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the lord so we're not doing this for ourselves we're doing it for the lord hebrews talks about fathers who punish their children for their pleasure and it's not for our pleasure that we just get one over our children we should do these things seriously and for the lord we have some examples god loves us as a father we have in hebrews 12 where god is a father who chases those he loves we have paul who was as a mother cherished his children he cared for them in that way [00:20:03] so we have that caring thought that god has for us what an example we had that christ loved the church god is father to us how much he loves us and cares for us every day and gives us all those things that we need and he gives us that which is best all things work together the good them that love god we have to lead by example we have many examples in the scriptures of fathers many of them are not good examples we have the we have eli who never told his sons off for what they did we have david who didn't say yes or no to what his sons had to say and we find that there are sons that followed an example of bad example of their of their fathers kings bad kings carried on our children know all about us when we're at home we're in the meeting we can pretend when we're at home we can try to pretend but our children pretty much know most of most [00:21:02] there is about us instead of our wives it's a real challenge to us as to what our daily life is like we have to lead by example so we're to instill subjection coming back to children being obedient to our parents we have to teach children to obey to be in order there's nothing worse than a child that's out of order that doesn't know to about the right time you know when the child's about to run across the road and you have to grab his hand because it doesn't know to say when you say stop well they have to learn that they have to learn that we have to teach children so they may grow up to be responsible and sometimes we have to carry

out correction you know being a father it's not an easy job but it's a well worthwhile one when you see your kids grow up to love you and to respect you it is something tremendous whatever you give to them in terms of time and energy in terms of [00:22:07] difficult decisions in terms of saying things to them that sometimes are not pleasant easy it is well worthwhile energy we give we submit christianity is about giving our time and energy to each other and it pays dividends not only do we have to show what's wrong but we have to show what's right and to train only in ordinary manners of life but in those things which are really valuable in the lord we also are responsible to guard from evil influences there are many influences that would come into our home especially through the media perhaps through friends and we are responsible as fathers perhaps through friends and we are responsible as fathers to set the rules as what happens in our household and that is a very big responsibility that we must take before [00:23:02] the lord and as fathers we are to teach the things of the lord just these verses in deuteronomy uh words were given to the children of israel they were commanded to teach diligently to the children the fathers to talk about when the citizen nine house when they'll walk us by the way when they'll lie us down when they rise us up you know the scripture well we don't have to go through all those those points but as fathers we are responsible to lay out the ground rules for how we how the word of god is taught in our homes to make the time to sit together around the word and in prayer these things are the father's responsibility maybe sometimes the wife has to carry these things out because the father's perhaps not there but together and that's my next subject we can under the father's direction we can carry these things out and and there are father's responsibilities to make sure that those things are put in place and that the scriptures [00:24:05] are taught and understood but of course parents work together and this is where in a christian family we should have husbands and wives working together it's most important that children understand that mom and dad both agree and that we both want their good and that we both want them to grow up in the things of the lord we are together in what we do in the world and sadly we see lots of arguments and arguments in front of the children about things that should never be discussed in front of our children must be together and as i mentioned before discipline must be consistent we don't go to mom and ask for one and when she says no we go to dad sometimes mom says we'll ask dad because dad has the ultimate responsibility but we don't play one off against another [00:25:02] and in order that might be might be so we as moms and dads we have to have good communication and we have to talk together and pray together and decide together how these practical things are going to be carried out how discipline is going to be carried out and when where there's a difficult situation comes up something concerns us we can communicate before the lord and know how we can go on and that is the father's responsibility to make sure those things happen even though the mother may often have to carry them out but you know we also need to do things together as a family we don't just show to our children and tell you do this you do that and never have time for them and never do things with them and never show them what you really love them and that needs time and energy and we do it together as a family and that means that we need to be aware of what our children are doing or dangers that they [00:26:07] may be in and i think it's important as families to have time together usually perhaps mealtimes where we sit together and we can discuss what the children have done to at school or wherever they've been for the day well we can talk about different things that they what would like or would like to do and so that we can communicate together and share together what the issues are that that we have to deal with the questions that we have to go into and share the load together as husbands and wives sometimes there are some really difficult situations especially when children are very young you know children are nice and sweet when they're all cuddly and lovely but sometimes they can really take out of you and you can get to the very bottom of your energy level and you can do that together that's why we have man and wife together and most of all perhaps we can pray together for wisdom and help in all these things [00:27:06] and also we can teach the truth together perhaps the wife has more time with the children but we need to do it together we need to

share questions that they may have answer questions that they have give answers to our children from the word of god for questions they may they may have together and what a blessing it is to know a christian family living under these principles well we know i don't pretend to be the perfect father because my children know me there's three of them are here today and they know all my faults and everything about me and i don't pretend to be perfect but they are the best kids in the world and the lord must have known that's why he gave me good kids so so much for kids the world of work we haven't got much time left that week but that was most that was dearest on my heart we also have to go to work some of us would love to be at home with our kids all day and shortly will be a holiday and we'll be able to do that but we we have to go to work and it's god's order that we work and this is another sphere in which god [00:28:03] gives us the opportunity to live out the truth of ephesians in our work and the way we live in timothy uh six first timothy six we have some instructions there about our living godly lives in this world and the way we react as servants and masters that um that has an effect on our testimony and can cause the name of god to be blasphemed if we don't live up to the truth that we profess unto christ which our example we know that he was the one who submitted to everything that his father told him to do he lived here that perfect life he also submitted himself to his parents he was subject unto them it tells us in luke chapter 2 and so we have before god to live in this world not as that which man sees but before god sees he sees everything and there we had before we had unto unto the lord here we have unto christ who is our example unto christ and [00:29:08] especially would like just to bring this thought out unto christ who is our hope we have um unto christ in verse 5 where we have servants you know christ he is the one that's god's man everything is under his control god has decreed that he is the one who will he's going to rectify everything and if we live in our job and we have to suffer as christians maybe we lose some pay rise maybe we lose some position maybe life is quite difficult for us but we know that when christ comes he knows all about that he'll reward us for every step we've taken in his name everything we've lost for him will be rewarded and how we can trust in him one day we're going to be by his side the fullness of him that fills all in all first chapter tells us so we can trust him for our [00:30:04] daily lives at work when things sometimes are difficult we can go through these things with him just briefly masters very similar thing god is watching what we do i've never been an employee really i've always been in the family firm but i have known what it is to have employees and to seek to deal with them as a christian should and the world of work is very difficult simon was telling us about the world expects us to want more and more to want to work longer hours to want to to get more income to want to get to progress in things in this world to be promoted but here we have as work in our work life to live out the fact that christ is everything to us and he has a claim in our lives and to seek to put him his rights first just a couple of scriptures that came to me to finish off with we have two very interesting scriptures i read this [00:31:06] one in malachi 4 at the end of the old testament it says he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers that is what god is about that's what god wants he doesn't want this disorder and this anger and this selfishness that the world is full of he wants hearts in families to be at one and what a wonderful thing god is a god of harmony what love he has shown to us and we need to show that love in order that we may have hearts united together and that's for the family then we find for the uh for the work relationship we have an example in in philemon where he says to paul says to philemon about anesimus not now a servant but above a servant a brother beloved especially to me how much more to thee both in the flesh and in the law so there we have a master and a servant working together in harmony this is god how god would have it but we have to work these things out in a world that doesn't appreciate the things of [00:32:02] god doesn't love him but we can show that example of how christ worked how he lived how he demonstrated the love of god in the situation where he was and we can do this for his namesake