

WALKING WORTHILY IN THE HEAVENLY HIGHWAY

Isaiah 35:1-10; Ephesians 4:1-5

Bible Reading: Ephesians 4:1-32.

The heavenly highway is the path of salvation and sanctification, the journey toward eternal life with God. It is the way of the cross that leads the believer home. It is not an ordinary way; it is *a highway*: a way in which we are directed and protected by Divine Authority (Psalm 32:8). Hence, there is an expectation of God for those who take this highway – walk worthily. This means to live a life that reflects the character and teachings of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:13). In today's message, we are exhorted to conduct ourselves in a manner befitting our calling and identity in Christ Jesus (Romans 13:14).

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HEAVENLY HIGHWAY

God has established a distinct highway, which leads to heaven. It is a straight, elevated path, set apart from sin, leading to God's presence. What are the characteristics of this heavenly highway? One, it is **a hallowed highway** (Isaiah 35:8; Proverbs 8:20). The heavenly highway is God's way of purity and truth. It is the way of holiness, reserved for the redeemed. Only those cleansed and walking in righteousness can journey on it. Two, a **safe highway** (Isaiah 35:9; 1 Peter 3:13; Ezekiel 34:28). The way of the world is filled with evil. Satan goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour (1 Peter 5:8). But Jesus Christ is the only true way. We can follow Him safely. Three, a **homeward highway** (Isaiah 35:10; John 14:6;). God's royal highway will take the Christian to his heavenly home. There would be mountains of trial to climb and valleys of sorrow to descend, but the trials of the road will seem insignificant at our journey's end (Romans 8:18). Four, **a happy highway** (Isaiah 35:10; 51:11). There are eternal joys and gladness in this heavenly highway. The natural man seeks for happiness in the form of sinful pleasures and selfish possessions; but the happiness thus found is short-lived, disappointing and leads to eternal death.

THE CONTENT OF THE WORTHY WALK

The Apostle Paul highlighted the content of a life that walks in the heavenly highway. It includes: **One, redemption** (Ephesians 1:14; Colossians 1:14; 1 Peter 1:18, 19): The heavenly highway is sin-free. You must be free from the bondage of sin to walk on it. Two, **humility** (Ephesians 4:2; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5,6): it is a life that completely depends on God, values others above himself, and lives with a heart that submits to God's will. Three, **holiness** (1 Thessalonians 4:7): it is a commitment to moral and spiritual purity, setting believers apart from the sinful patterns of the world. Four, **patience and love** (Ephesians 4:2,3): You bear with one another in love. Five, **faithfulness and integrity** (1 Corinthians 4:2): You can be trusted in all aspects of life - home, school, workplace and society - reflecting the integrity of Christ. Six, **wisdom and discernment** (Ephesians 5:15-16): it is to "**walk circumspectly, not as unwise but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.**" It is a walk in wisdom and discernment to navigate the complexities of life in a fallen world. Seven, **walking in the Spirit** (Galatians 5:16). The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit empowers you to live according to God's standards.

THE CHARGE TO WALK WORTHILY

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called" (Ephesians 4:1). We are called to the heavenly highway. That's our vocation. We are charged to accommodate ourselves to the gospel and to the heavenly glory by which we are called. Both are our vocation. We are called Christians; we must answer that name and live like Christians (Acts 11:24-26). We are called to God's kingdom and glory; that kingdom and glory therefore we must mind and walk as becomes the heirs of them (Psalm 15:1-5; 1 Peter 2:11,12). Our time on earth is limited; our focus must be on Jesus Christ alone to guide us through the pathway of righteousness. Be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer (1 Peter 4:7).

Walking worthily in the heavenly highway is living a balanced, Christ-centered life that honours your divine calling. It is a journey of holiness, love, humility, and obedience, leading to eternal fellowship with God.

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." (Jn 13:17).