

## *Genesis 5:21-24 To Walk With God 06/11/17*

*<sup>21</sup> When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. <sup>22</sup> Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. <sup>24</sup> Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.*

*(Pastor prays)*

This passage, as brief as it is, shines like a single brilliant star over an otherwise non-descriptive chapter. Enoch is a glittering jewel in a pile of otherwise dull stones. Why? Because he walked with God. And I've come today with no other purpose or intent than to plead with you to walk with God.

The prophet Amos asked the question, "Can two walk together unless they be agreed?" The text is plain and the call is clear. Enoch walked with God. The writer of Hebrews, when he spoke of Enoch in Hebrews 11:5, wrote: *By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.*

We know the language. We even use it talking about people we admire. "She walks with the Lord." It's why we were created – at least in part. In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve sinned and it was exposed when God came to walk with them. Walking with God is metaphorical. It meant that the man Enoch had a lifestyle characterized and marked by his devotion to God, a closeness to God, communion with God, a joy in God, a pleasure in knowing God; and I want that.

I want to cut through the fog of excuses and sin and laziness and know what it means to walk with God and how that *real* walk with God plays out. Most of us aren't walking with God. Most are the walking dead, slogging through life with no real purpose, no divine passion, and no love for Christ. As Jesus called Lazarus to come forth and live, I'm praying God will give you ears to hear and eyes to see. Your life is nothing if you don't walk with God. Let's think about this passage, the man Enoch and what it means to walk with God.

In the Bible, there are five passages that refer to Enoch. Two are genealogies and three give us insight: Genesis 5, Hebrews 11, and Jude. Also, in the Bible, the phrase “walk with God” is not used very often. In Genesis 5, there is Enoch, Genesis 6 there is Noah and in Micah 6:8 it says, *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* It’s what you were created for and if you don’t get that right, then nothing else really matters.

## **Walking with God is the Purpose of Life**

What can we learn from Enoch?

### **A Walk with God Has a Beginning**

It has to start somewhere. If the philosopher is right that the journey of 1,000 miles begins with the first step, what does that mean about walking with God? It means there has to be a beginning. There was a time when you were not walking with God and then something happened and now you are walking with God.

Let me show you where I get that from this passage and what it points to for us. To see this, you need to look at verses 21-22 and read it slowly. *When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. <sup>22</sup> Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters.* For 65 years before his son was born there’s no indication he walked with God. Verse 22 seems to point to something changing. If that’s the case, Enoch was like everyone else who has ever been born. He was born a sinner. The old language is “total depravity.” It doesn’t mean that we are as bad as we could possibly be. It means that every part of us (when we are without Christ) is affected by sin.

A good illustration of that is one chapter over in Genesis 6:5. It says, *The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* Or as David describes it in Psalm 58:3, *The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies.* That depravity makes it impossible to walk with God. So, for 65 years, Enoch lived his life like everyone else until God changed him. It’s a simple pattern that finds its conclusion in becoming a Christian. Conversion is not something we do, it’s something done *to* us.

When your heart and mind and eyes and ears are awakened to see the glory of Christ and the ugliness of your own sin and you believe in Christ, that faith saves you. At the base of the Protestant Reformation that started 500 years ago, are what is known as the 5 Solas. This is how we understand Salvation. Salvation is by *Grace* alone, through *Faith* alone in *Christ* alone, on the authority of *scripture* alone, and all of that happens to the *Glory of God* alone. But you don't walk with God without a first step. And I don't mean your step, I mean God's call.

### **A Walk with God Has Effects**

What I mean is that there is evidence. In the New Testament, there is fruit. And it's not just what you *do*, it's who you *are*. It's your affections, and loves, your desires and dreams. It's your motivations. If you are able to step back and read all of Chapter 5, a pattern emerges. Let's read it and I will show you what I mean. I'll start with verse 3. *When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. 4 The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters.5 Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.*

*6 When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh. 7 Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters. 8 Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.*

*9 When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan. 10 Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters. 11 Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.*

*12 When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel. 13 Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters. 14 Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.*

*15 When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. 16 Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. 17 Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.*

*18 When Jared had lived 162 years, he fathered Enoch. 19 Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. 20 Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.*

*21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. 22 Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.*

He walked with God. In the midst of the mundane genealogy there's Enoch. He's radically different – like an oasis in a barren land. Enoch walked with God. For the first 65 years of his life, he was like everyone else. Now he stands out as an example. When you go back and read Chapter 4 you see there is this constant attempt to be happy without God.

But let's look at some things about walking with God.

- A. It means you are going in the same direction. You prize holiness and look for usefulness. You are cross-centered.
- B. Walking with God means you are going step-for-step. You are keeping pace. It's a series of steps that happen day after day so that it's a lifestyle and not a pipe dream.
- C. Walking with God means walking away from some things that you love. Sometimes it is a drastic departure from things like adultery or pornography. It could be the little distractions like Twitter or Facebook.
- D. Walking with God means there is an agreement with God. You agree with God about who He is and who you are. You agree about your sin and a need for a Savior.

And so, the question then is, "How do you know whether or not you are walking with God?" Here are some diagnostic questions from a friend of mine named Trevin Wax.

1. Do you love God? – In your heart, do you desire to follow Him? Do you worship and obey Him? Does your love for God stretch into action? Does it have any practical effect on your life? Would others characterize you as someone who loves God?

2. Do you love the Bible? Do you want to follow the one it reveals, Jesus Christ, and follow His commandments? Do you really enjoy reading the Bible and take nourishment from it? If not, you may not be walking with God. Or do you struggle to read it and have little desire to obey it?
3. Do you love sharing the Gospel and living it out? Do you support the church financially? Do you share the Gospel with the lost? Do you care if someone is lost? Is that a concern that comes quickly to mind when talking to another person? Do you pray much for lost sinners? Do you care if they go to Hell? Do you try to live out a Christian life in front of other people? Do you ever inconvenience yourself to present the Gospel to others? Do you suffer in any form for the sake of the Gospel or is your life free of the sting associated with vibrant Christianity lived out in a pagan world?
4. What about church? Is church endlessly boring to you? Do you like Biblical preaching? Do you see the need to be confronted about your sin? Do you want to support the church and our missionaries? Do you want to go to church?
5. What about eternity? Do you want to go to Heaven? Do you *not* want to go to Hell? Do you believe in Heaven and Hell and if so do you act on it? Do you think about Hell? Do you live as if Hell is real?

You see, walking with God is what we were made for. It's what Adam's sin forfeited and lost for us. The Bible teaches what is still required of us. Micah 6:8 says, *He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* Our problem is that our own sin keeps us from being able to walk with God and the Bible teaches us that Christ alone makes a walk with God possible. He alone can bring us to God. For Christ died for our sins once and for all. The just for the unjust that He might bring us to God. And it is through Christ and faith in His perfect life that earned righteousness for us, His death on the cross in place of sinners, taking the punishment for sin and His resurrection that secures our victory over death. Today you can start a walk with God through faith in Jesus.

*(Pastor shares the Gospel and prays)*