

August 19, 2018

Living Worthily

Ephesians 4:1-16

We are agents of the Creative Spirit in this world. Real advance in the spiritual life, then, means accepting this vocation with all it involves. Not merely turning over the pages of an engineering magazine and enjoying the pictures, but putting on overalls and getting on with the job. The real spiritual life must be horizontal as well as vertical; spread more and more as well as aspire more and more (E. Underhill, 1937).

The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1:25

If we continue clamoring for things we want from God, we may often find ourselves disappointed, because we have forgotten the weakness of God and what we may call the poverty of God. We thought God was the dispenser of all the good things we could possibly desire; but in a very real sense, God has nothing to give at all except Himself (S. Tugwell, 1975).

The calling in general terms can seem to be nothing less than the ongoing reconciliation of all humanity to God and each other in Christ, into Whom we ceaselessly grow. Ephesians balances knowing this has already occurred in Christ's work with the realization that such reconciliation happens in infinite instances of humility, gentleness, and patient forbearance with others as the body articulates itself (P. Marshall, 2009).

Next week: *Ephesians 4:255:2*

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 145* (What is God saying to you?)

Monday: *1 Chronicles 29:10-22*

Tuesday: *Luke 10:1-12*

Wednesday: *Luke 22:14-30*

Thursday: *Hebrews 12:18-29*

Friday: *Matthew 4:18-25*

Saturday: *Revelation 11:15-19*

Almighty Father, grant that Your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to You, may be united in one body by Your Spirit, that the world may believe in Him Whom You sent—Your Son, Jesus Christ—our Lord; Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. Amen.

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