

Where have your feet taken you this pre-Christmas season?

- up a ladder to hang the lights
- into a shopping mall to stand in line and fight the crowds
- over to the bench, while your wife and daughters finish trying on shoes for the Christmas concert;
- or maybe up to a friends house or down the hall at work for a Christmas party;
- and tonight of course, your feet brought you here for a quiet time of prayer.

But instead of talking figuratively, can I speak figuratively for a second? Have you

- walked to the past where Christmas memories seem so real and so much better;
- or are you walking through problems
 - a walk where your wallet or purse or bank account are a little too light,
 - where your health is hurting,
 - where stresses seem to be too much to carry.

And as long as we're talking figuratively, we should move on to your spiritual walk.

- Has your walk taken you to the wrong places,
 - Deep into cyber space,
 - Deep into dark desires,
 - Away from God
 - Perhaps even with the wrong people who have influenced you the wrong way?

Have your feet taken you down the wrong path? Then Behold, your Savior Coming. (I know the service folder says, coming to search your hearts and that is certainly part of the lesson tonight, but...) Building on the pictures of our lesson tonight we can say He is coming to Walk Among Us.

We'll look at tonight's letter, the fourth in a series of seven, verse by verse. It's found in Revelation 2:18-29.

v.18a - This letter is written to the church in Thyatira:

Thyatira is the smallest of the cities these letters are written to, but it also happens to be the longest letter. Thyatira wasn't as important of a city as some of the others were. It served as a buffer to the capital of the region, Pergamum, the letter we read Sunday. It was an outpost meant to slow down enemies from attacking the major cities closer to the coast. Size, culturally, even religiously (most of the cities have huge temples built to worship the gods) – Thyatira wasn't a big deal. So it found its sense of worth and build its reputation in the area of manufacturing. Trade guilds or something like our modern day labor unions were important and if you didn't participate in them you most likely wouldn't have work. You might know Lydia, the woman who converted to Christianity in the city of Philippi, the woman who opened her home to the missionaries there... she was from the town of Thyatira and a seller of expensive purple cloth made in that city. Besides textiles, burnished bronze was the other big trade guild in the city. That's important. Listen what comes next.

v.18b – “Son of God” – the only time that name is used for Jesus in the entire book of Revelation. It reminds us our Lord’s power and authority and the becomes even more clear in his description – “blazing fire and burnished bronze feet.” The people of Thyatira would have images of the fires that purified and shaped and polished the bronze images they made there. But here was someone bigger than a bronze statue, more glorious than burnished bronze – here was the Son of God in all His glory.

v.19 – Here is the compliment. Notice it was a church that was growing in all areas of life. And it leads us to ask, “How is our walk with God?” “Is Jesus walking among us?”

v.20-21 – Nevertheless. In each of the letters, there is a compliment, but there is also a condemnation, a warning from the One who is coming. Here he uses the story of Jezebel – perhaps the most wicked woman to ever live – to warn them. Jezebel wasn’t just bad, and ladies in the Saturday morning Bible Study will know that she was a really bad girl of the Bible. She forced her husband, the king of Israel, to build temples to her false gods. She murdered the prophets of the true God. She put a death sentence on the prophet Elijah’s head so that he had to flee for his life. She lied, she murdered, she stole and led many away from God.

Apparently there was a woman in the church in Thyatira who was doing the same to God’s people there. And they were permitting her to do so. Their walk was with the wrong person into the wrong places.

v.22-23 – Notice the play on words: the bed where she and others find such wicked “pleasure” will find suffering and pain in the same bed. Jesus is serious. He will strike her followers dead. He will repay these people for their deeds. God will not permit sin to stand forever.

So again, during this Advent season of repentance, we have to ask, where are your feet taking you?

v.24-25 – The message is simple. Hold on to the simple truths of God’s Word, not the deep false misleading lies of Satan and his followers. Walk with the One who walked among us and showed us his will and his love.

And that’s what Christmas is, isn’t it? Those feet of burnished bronze and blazing fire, were the tiniest feet, that no doubt, Mary marveled at and rubbed and rejoiced to hold. Those feet walked the dust of our earth for us, approached the hurting and the lonely and the sinners, and those feet ran away from wickedness and said no to sin again and again. And don’t forget how those feet were pierced for you and for me, how they were part of the price to pay for the times you’ve walked and wandered down the wrong path. That’s Christmas, God walked among us that we might walk with Him. And while we do we walk with him hand in hand in his love.

v.26-27 – Here the feet come into play again. Jesus quotes a Psalm verse that talks about him ruling with power and in glory, whose feet now will dash everything to pieces like pottery. God’s Word makes it clear that is happening right now. The one who died, rose again. The One who rose, ascended into heaven and the Father has placed all things under his feet, the Bible says.

Your walk? If its through dangers or frustrations or worries or away from reality and into sadness and depression and despair. Look who walks among you. The One who has all power. The One who promises that you will rule with Him for eternity. May God take our feet there with Him.

v.28-29 – The morning star. We’re not sure exactly what that means. Later in Revelation, it says that Jesus is the bright morning star. Perhaps, its imagery meant to lead the readers of this letter to think again of the polished shiny bronze. Or perhaps, Jesus is simply saying He will give us His very best – Himself – that He would walk among us.

So far, this winter in Colorado, it's been tough to walk in a winter wonderland. I suppose you could go to the mountains to do so, or you could do it right here, with His words, with His promises. The One who is coming to walk among us at Christmas is the One who promises to walk among us now and forever. Let's go for a walk with Him. Amen.

SDG

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