

The New River Rapids

WALK THE WALK *by Pasture Scott*



Today I sat in a hair stylist’s station and got what few hairs are left a good clean cutting. As I sat stock-still in my chair I noticed a poster on the wall which sported the well-groomed head of a man who looked vaguely like Kevin Costner. Beneath his profile were the words, “Walk Right In. Sit Right Down.” Wryly, I thought to myself, I can only obey one of those commandments.

I have walking on the brain today. Even before I saw that poster I was remembering how many times I’ve been sitting in a worship service when the leader has instructed, “Let’s stand and sing” and I feel eyes cutting in my direction. Don’t get me wrong, I get a huge kick out of these things—most of the time. “Stand up, stand up for Jesus” is another one of those hymn memories that has made me more than a little self-conscious.

For a society that is overweight and under exercised, we sure talk a lot about walking. Australians have their walkabouts, ice cream stands offer walk-up service, people out in the wild communicate via walkie-talkies (sittee-talkies just plain miss the point), we walk our dogs and “walk the line.”

Since the Apostle Paul didn’t sport around in a motor car, he did a lot of walking. And he wrote a lot about walking. Without using a concordance, three instances spring to mind:

We WALK by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7)

WALK circumspectly (Eph 5:15)

WALK in a manner worthy of your calling (Eph 4:1)

There are others, I know. Many others. But let’s use these three to, uh, “walk” out into the new year. The word Paul uses in all three cases can be translated: ‘to pound the pavement’ or ‘to trudge along’ and infers direction, intention and progress.

When Paul said to walk “circumspectly” he may have had in mind the tedious and accurate work of the scribes who made sure every word, line, jot and tittle (iota and tau) of the Torah (Law) were precisely accurate. Their brows beaded with the sweat of certainty. They labored to get it right. They counted every word in each line to make sure they came up with the same number that was found in the manuscript they were copying. They were chosen because of their skill and dedication, so Paul could just have easily said, “Walk skillfully in this evil age, treading carefully as you go.”

The passage in Ephesians 4 gives the inspiration for this entry’s title. The phrase “walk in a manner worthy...” is the idea of a set of balanced scales, thus, a balanced life. I don’t mean merely to balance fun with work although all work and no play makes Jack a pretty dull dude; the thought expressed is that each one of us has been created to bring Him glory through righteous works which are part of His master plan for us from eons ago (Eph 2:10). He has given us the indwelling Christ, a measure of faith, the promises, a calling, gifts and the power of the Spirit to make sure we live up to our responsibility. Peter said He has given us “everything we need for life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3)! How much? Everything!

The beauty of it all is He has set us up for sure success! My role is to stay attached to the Vine from which I gulp down the Lifeflow of His Life and I get to bear the fruit of His service through me. I like those odds. But sadly, many never come into the knowledge of these things and because the scales don’t balance—their life doesn’t work—they walk away sorrowful, dejected, fed up and fit to be tied.

But not us. Not me. Not in this new year. Like you, I want my life to match His dream for me. With all these precious promises, 2009 can be a walk to remember.

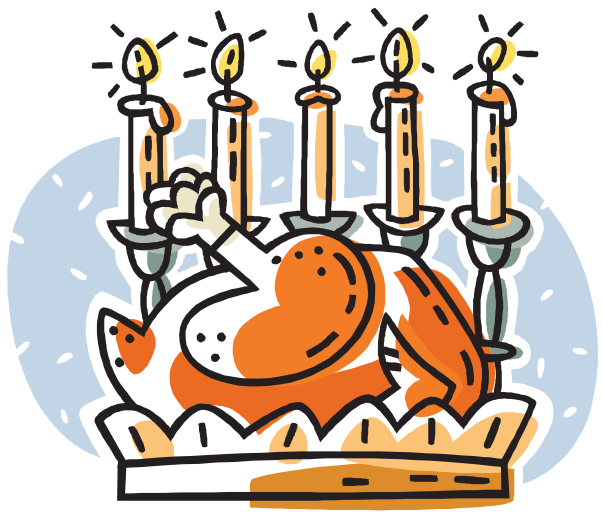
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January Events

For more details about these and other events at New River go to www.newrivercc.com/events

Prayer	8th,15th,22nd,29th
Navigator meeting.....	14th
Fellowship Dinner.....	18th
LIFEgroup leaders meet.....	18th
Silent Siege	17th
City of Refuge	25th
Venerate	7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
Men’s Bible Study	Weds. 6 am





Christmas Progressive Dinner

New River celebrated this year in what is fast becoming a Christmas tradition for our fellowship. The Christmas progressive dinner was held on December 13th and was great fun for all. The kids stayed at the church and ate pizza while the adults car pooled to three different houses for each course of the dinner. It all began at Brian and Lynn Nabors house for the appetizers followed by a trip to Rick and Cora Bell's for the main course. Dessert and the ornament gift exchange was held at Alan and Kelli Penn's house. This is sure to be an event you want to attend next year if you didn't get the chance to this year.

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The Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study is meeting every Wednesday morning at 6:00 am for the new study "Bondage Breakers". Come join us for a wonderful experience looking into what it really takes to be the man that God created you to be.

The Normal Kingdom Life

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"Our mission is to advance the kingdom of God as devoted followers of Jesus Christ by intentionally passing our faith on to our children, our community and the world,
MAKING AND MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES TO THE GLORY OF GOD!"

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PLACE
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