

Walking After His Commandments

“And this is love, that we walk after His commandments. This is the commandment, that, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it” (2 John 1:6).

I look up to several men of God as my spiritual fathers. One of those who has impacted my life is Rev. Wade Huntley, of Rutherfordton, North Carolina. Preacher Wade, who just celebrated his eighty-second birthday, has served as pastor of Holly Springs Baptist Church in the Harris community of Rutherfordton for fifty-three years. His strong leadership and victorious spirit has helped many of us enjoy our privileges in Christ.

Along with his ministry, Preacher Wade loves to ride his Tennessee Walking Horse. In fact, he has won many first-place ribbons in various horse shows throughout the Southeast. We are told that the breed was originally bred in the Southern United States to carry the owners of plantations around their lands. The unique four-beat “running walk” of the Tennessee Walker makes for extremely smooth gaits and an especially comfortable ride.

As this very gentle breed of horse is called a “Walker,” so God’s people are walkers. We may not have won a lot of ribbons, but forgetting the past and looking ahead, we are walking toward the real prize in the skies (see Phil. 3:13-14). In the text before us, John describes our walking as “Walking After His Commandments.” Here are a few thoughts about this vital matter of Christian behavior.

Walking after His commandments is an evidence of life! As only those who are alive can walk physically, so only those who are alive in Christ can walk spiritually. The desire to follow divine orders is not a natural one. It is a spiritual trait, a divinely produced attribute which is manifested in relationship to divine commands. As John said in his first epistle, when referring to those who are regenerate, “His commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3).

Walking after His commandments is an expression of love! This matter is set forth so clearly in the text. The Apostle wrote, “And this is love, that we walk after His commandments.” In other words, as “we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (1 John 2:22), we show forth our genuine love for the Lord. While we do love His commandments, the primary object of love is the Lord of the commandments.

Walking after His commandments is an example of lifestyle! The obedience to which we are called is not a temporary charge. Walking after divine orders is a lifetime issue. From the beginning to the ending of our Christian experience, we are to live in obedience. “This is the commandment, that, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.” Or, as is underlined elsewhere, “Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning” (1 John 2:24).