Meandering

I remember when I was taught the definition of the word meandering. While reading a story in school, the teacher read a passage that stated that a horse was meandering. Seeing all the perplexed looks from the class, she then explained to us what the word meant. Paraphrasing as I recall the setting, she moved her hands and body as she said the horse walked around going over here and then over there, just kind of walking without a specific reason - that is meandering. With that picture in mind, let us consider our lives as Christians today.

Why do we do, or not do things in our lives? Why does it seem that some seem to just meander through life? More specifically, when we consider our self, do we at times just kind of walk through life without having a specific reason for what we are doing, or not doing. At times, do we just meander?

When one makes the decision to serve God and submit to the Gospel call there is no longer a need to meander through life. Submission to God's will, baptism, the forgiveness of sin supply's direction and provides the privilege of "walking in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). Sin becomes foreign to us, thus we cease the walk of going over here and then over there - meandering (see Romans 7).

However, there may arise the occasion when we allow the devil to slip one past the goal. We give into temptation and sin because our guard was not up. Even when we think we have mastered dealing with a certain temptation, a lack of watchfulness can provide the devil with the opportunity he is always seeking (1Peter 5:8). This real and present danger does not go away after we elect to follow

God; in fact, such is often when we face our greatest trials. The ease of meandering is always present.

Still, there may be times that just like the horse we meander just because it is what we want to do. The devil knows that denying self spiritually is a task one must work at (Mark 8:34). Selfishness is a major cause of sin in the life of a Christian. Consider a physical example, a chocolate covered donut. Whether weight is at issue or not, is there anything more alluring, while at the same time being totally not good for the physical body, than a chocolate covered donut? Yet, we occasionally eat the donut. Now consider how the devil uses temptation to lure us to sin. Were the sin not alluring, no one would give into the temptation and the devil knows that. Paul reminds us that short-lived pleasures pale in comparison to the eternal glory God has prepared for us (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

As the elect of God, let us not meander through life. Rather, let us purpose to "pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Timothy 2:22).