

# Walking Worthy of our Calling

## Chapter 1 - Introduction to the Series

Why the title, *Walking Worthy of our Calling*? By way of introduction, here is a short explanation of the title of this series.

### 1.1 Our Calling

#### 1.1.1 The Called of Jesus Christ

Paul describes Christians everywhere as “the called of Jesus Christ”, for example:

**Rom 1:6**      *among whom you also are **the called of Jesus Christ**;*

Note the preposition “of” – “*the called of Jesus Christ*”. It is the normal genitive, meaning “*belonging to*”. So *the called of Jesus Christ* means *those called to belong to Jesus Christ, or those called to be the people of Jesus Christ*. We are Christ’s people – which, of course, is what “Christian” means – Christ’s ones.

The words **call**, **called** and **calling** are encountered throughout the NT, as shown in the verses quoted later in this chapter, as well as in following verses:-

**Rom 11:29**    *For the gifts and the **calling** of God are irrevocable.*

**1 Cor 1:2**    *To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called** to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord ...*

**1 Cor 1:26**    *For you see your **calling**, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are **called**.*

**Eph 1:17-18**    *... that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His **calling**, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints ...*

**2 Tim 1:9**    *... God, who saved us and **called** us with a holy **calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began ...*

**2 Pet 1:10** *Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your **call** and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble ...*

### 1.1.2 Who Calls Us?

We are “*the called*”; but who calls us? We find that it is practically the universal usage in the New Testament that the calling of Christians is attributed to God the Father. For example, in Jn 6:44, Jesus says, “*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him ...*”. And in Jn 17:6 Jesus says, “*I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They are Yours, You gave them to Me ...*”. It is God the Father who calls us. He calls us **through** Christ; He calls us **to** Christ.

So as Christians we belong to Jesus Christ; we have been called to Him by God the Father; we have been placed in Him; we are in His kingdom; we are in Him as members of His body; we are joined to Him; we abide in Him. There is a mystical relationship between Christians and Jesus Christ – “the called **of** Jesus Christ”.

### 1.1.3 What is the Purpose of Our Calling?

The Bible tells us that our calling accomplishes many things, such as:-

- i. Our calling refers to our **salvation**.

**2 Thes 2:14** *... He **called** you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- ii. Our calling **unites** us.

**Eph 4:1-6** *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy of the calling** with which you were **called**, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were **called** in one hope of your **calling**; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

- iii. Our calling **motivates** us.

**Phil 3:14** *I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward **call** of God in Christ Jesus.*

**1 Thes 2:11,12** *you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who **calls** you into His own kingdom and glory.*

iv. Our calling is for our good.

**Rom 8:28** *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are **the called** according to His purpose.*

v. Our calling is a heavenly calling.

**Heb 3:1** *Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly **calling** ...*

**1 Pet 5:10** *... may the God of all grace, who **called** us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus ...*

vi. Our calling enables us to see the truth about Christ.

**1 Cor 1:22-24** *but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who have are **called**, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

vii.. Our calling is into fellowship with Christ.

**1 Cor 1:9** *God is faithful, by whom you were **called** into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Being the called of Jesus Christ thus places us into an intimate relationship with Christ, which Paul describes as being **in Christ**.

**2 Cor 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

This relationship with Jesus is also shown in His illustration of the Vine and the branches:

**Jn15:4,5** *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; without Me you can do nothing.”*

So being “*the called of Jesus Christ*” is something very special indeed; it is a phrase full of meaning and significance. As Christians, we are blessed and privileged indeed to be “*the called of Jesus Christ*”. Listen to the way Peter described it:

**1 Pet 2:9**      *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **His own special people**\*, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who **called** you out of darkness into His marvellous light.*

\* The King James translation has “*a peculiar people*”, which may have been perfectly understood by Englishmen four hundred years ago, but which today sounds just, well, peculiar. The NKJ translates this as “***His own special people***”, which brings out the special relationship. What a blessing to be *the called of Jesus Christ*!

## 1.2 Walking Worthy of Our Calling

Not only are Christians *the called of Jesus Christ*, but the Bible admonishes us to walk worthy of our calling, as we have already seen in Eph 4:1 and 1 Thess 2:12, and as is further illustrated by the following verses:-

**Col 1:9b,10**    *... that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may **walk worthy** of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

**2 Thes 1:11**    *Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you **worthy of this calling**, and fulfil all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**2 Thess 2:6**    *But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who **walks disorderly** and not according to the tradition which he received from us.*

**1 Jn 2:6**        *He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to **walk just as He walked**.*

**2 Jn 1:6**        *This is love, that we **walk according to His commandments**.*

So there is no question that we as Christians are expected to *walk worthy of our calling*. But how are we to do this? The purpose of this series is to explore Biblical guidelines which will help us to *walk worthy of our calling*.