

MESSAGE

Occasion : Lighthouse BBC Coming Together
Theme : Being Joined Together, Each Part Effectually Working to Edify the Ekklesia
the Love of Christ
Venue : Lighthouse BBC / Online Live Streaming
Date : July 25, 2021

TITLE : OUR CALLING, OUR VOCATION, OUR WALK
Text/s :

Eph 4:1-3

4 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

KJ

Bible Reading :

2 Thess 3:3-13

3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.

5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

KJV

Song/s :

- He Lives

- Living By Faith

- My Faith Still Holds

My Faith Still Holds

Words by William J. Gaither and Gloria Gaither

Music by William J. Gaither

Arranged by Camp Kirkland

I

I tried to find life's mysteries, just by the reason of my mind to see,

But void remained 'tween me and where I longed to be,

'til childlike faith there built a bridge for me.

II

I thought I had to see and feel to prove that what I loved was really real,

But passion turned to ashes, things I held to dust,
I found reality in simple trust.

Refrain

My faith still holds on to the Christ of Calvary,
Oh blessed Rock of Ages cleft for me.
I gladly place my trust in things I cannot see,
My faith still holds on to the Christ of Calvary.

III

And oh what joy to walk this way! I follow nail-pierced footprints all the way,
And though the end of where I'm bound I may not see,
I choose to place my trust in Calvary.

IV

Now years have passed since in my youth,
I weathered storms of doubt in search of truth.
Sweet Jesus calmed the tempest of my soul's unrest,
Praise God! The Calvary Road has stood the test.

Refrain

My faith still holds on to the Christ of Calvary,
Oh blessed Rock of Ages cleft for me.
I gladly place my trust in things I cannot see,
My faith still holds on to the Christ of Calvary!

My faith still holds!

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Other references :

Instructions :

INTRODUCTION

Eph 4:1-3

4 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

KJV

Halfway this chapter, we see our beautiful guiding verse for our focus:

Eph 4:16

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

KJV

In order for us to realize the great impact of the truth of our text, especially as we talk about the subject of our calling, let us realize the magnitude of the greatness of Christ and His work for us.

We need to see this because the calling of God is such a great subject, especially if we consider what Paul tells Timothy:

2 Tim 1:9

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,
KJV

So let us consider:

John 1:1-4

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 The same was in the beginning with God.
3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
KJV

John 1:14

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
KJV

John 1:16-17

16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.
17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
KJV

*In the beginning was Christ, and Christ was with God and Christ was God.
Christ was in the beginning with God.*

*All things were made by Christ; and without Christ, was not any thing made that was made.
In Christ was life; and the life was the light of men.*

2 Tim 1:9

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,
KJV

Luke 10:21-24

21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.
22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.
23 And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see:
24 For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.
KJV

Eph 1:3-12

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

KJV

Rom 8:28-30

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

KJV

BODY

A) Our calling

Eph 4:1-3

4 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

KJV

My paraphrased version:

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation (entitlements you have been privileged to have, applied in all areas of life, especially in our workplaces) wherewith ye are called (areas in which you should realize the why Christ paved the way for you to be in Him) which is according to His great purpose for His people.

1 Peter 5:10

10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

KJV

2 Peter 1:3

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

KJV

2 Peter 1:10-11

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

KJV

Rom 8:28

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

KJV

2 Tim 1:9

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,
KJV

Concerning vocation and calling

An article. Detached from the truth about the Ekklesia.

What is Vocation?

Reflections by Roger Ebertz (Department Chair and Professor of Philosophy & Religion at the University of Dubuque), August 17, 2015

Vocation is one's response to a call from beyond oneself to use one's strengths and gifts to make the world a better place through service, creativity, and leadership.

A call from beyond oneself.

The concept of vocation rests on the belief that life is about more than me. To speak of "vocation" or "calling" is to suggest that my life is a response to something beyond myself. Christians believe this "something beyond myself" is God. But even people outside of this tradition often sense a call to serve others, to create beauty, and to do good in the world. A call may be experienced in many ways, including the following:

- A sense that God is leading me to a particular task, relationship, or mission.
- A deep desire to get involved when I am confronted with the needs of others.
- A sense that a particular task or kind of work is what I am supposed to be doing with my life at this particular time.
- Personal fulfilment that I experience as I am involved in a particular task or work.
- The affirmation of others who recognize the work I am doing and the contributions I am making to the world.

The factors that shape one's call.

"Vocation" is based on the idea that each individual person has unique strengths and gifts with which they can make a positive contribution to the good of the earth community. Each of us has interests and passions that can propel us in directions of service and creativity. By living my life as a response to a call, I find meaning in my work and give purpose to my life. A clear sense of one's vocation or calling, then, will involve the following:

- Coming to a realistic understanding of my strengths as a person, my natural abilities, and my spiritual gifts, developed through personal reflection, conversations with friends and family, exploration with teachers, mentors, career counsellors, and others, and assessment of my strengths and personality.
- Discovery of work that uses my gifts and strengths to serve others and/or contribute good things that enable human life to flourish.
- Experiencing fulfillment in following the call. My vocation is not just to do what I want to do in a shallow sense. Sometimes, following my call may involve giving up a lot, even sacrificing one's life. But finding and following my true call is also what makes one's life meaningful and deeply fulfilling.
- Finding meaning in the work I am doing right now. We are called to be students, professors, leaders, and so forth, right here and now.
- Recognizing that vocation is not static or limited to my job. Vocation also includes my relationships, causes, and work as a volunteer outside of my place of employment. We are called to be good parents, good siblings, good spouses, good friends.
- Experiencing the unfolding of my calling as I live my life. Perhaps the deepest sense of fulfilment may well be found as one reviews one's life and sees the way in which the various strands of one's life have contributed to the fulfillment of a broad lifetime vocation.

The direction of the call.

When we talk about vocation, our focus is not on finding one's dream job. If I think in terms of vocation, I will not just look for a job I like or a career that will make me rich, although enjoyable jobs and riches sometimes come to those who follow a call. Vocation is rooted in character and commitment to the value of others. It is about growing into a person who focuses their life beyond themselves. It is about living life in such a way that I make a positive contribution to the world. There are many ways to make such a contribution, including:

- Serving those we are in relationships with. We are called to be parents, siblings, children, spouses, and friends, fulfilling each of these roles with integrity, justice and compassion.
- Performing tasks that meet the daily needs of others. Custodians, electricians, accountants, airline pilots, administrators, business executives, teachers, nurses, and people in many other professions improve the world by simply providing everyday goods and services.
- Providing ethical leadership in businesses, government, various organizations, and society.
- Doing big and small things to bring peace and justice to the world.
- Working for the health of the environment.
- Creating works of beauty through all kinds of artistic expression and expressions of truth through various avenues of scholarship.

It follows from all of this that to respond to one's calling is to find meaning in a life of character and purpose. Character involves the virtues of integrity, justice and compassion. Vocation or calling involves hearing and responding to the "voice" which uniquely calls each of us to live purposeful lives that serve the world in all kinds of ways.

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"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7.

"You can call it God or conscience, or you can dismiss it as that intuitive knowing we all have as human beings, as living storytellers; but there is a knowing I feel that guides me toward better stories, toward being a better character. I believe there is a writer outside ourselves, plotting a better story for us, interacting with us, even, and whispering a better story into our consciousness." Donald Miller, *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*, p. 86.

<https://www.dbq.edu/CampusLife/OfficeofStudentLife/VocationalServices/WhatIsVocation/#:~:text=What%20is%20Vocation%3F-,What%20is%20Vocation%3F,Miller%2C%20A%20Million%20Miles%20in%20a%20Thousand%20Years%2C%20p.%2086.,-2000%20University%20Avenue>

B) Our worthy walk of the vocation in the direction and sphere of the call is seen in the following virtues

Eph 4:1-3

4 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

KJV

- Having humility and meekness
- Having longsuffering
- Having forbearance
- Having the continuing desire for unity

Note that all these come under the fruit of the Spirit in us.

Gal 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
KJV

Gal 5:25

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
KJV

Gal 5:16-17

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.
KJV

Remember the areas in which we are tempted... things that concern the body, the mind, the emotion, the relationships we have, and our circumstances in life.

C) Our worthy walk in the vocation bears that following practical manifestations (of the virtues)

Eph 4:17-32

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth **walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,**

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

KJV

1) The bottomline spiritual life.

Rom 15:1-2

15 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

KJV

Rom 14:1

14 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

KJV

1 Cor 12:22-24

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:
23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:

KJV

Phil 2:3-4

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

KJV

1 Thess 5:14-15

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

KJV

Eph 4:28

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

KJV

2 Thess 3:6-13

6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

KJV

Gal 6:1-2

6 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

KJV

1 Cor 9:22-23

22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

KJV

Deut 22:4

4 Thou shalt not see thy brother's ass or his ox fall down by the way, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt surely help him to lift them up again.

John 13:14-15

14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

KJV

Acts 20:35

35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

KJV

2) A Biblical example of all these

Rom 16

1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which **is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:**

2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been **a succourer of many, and of myself also.**

3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila **my helpers in Christ Jesus:**

4 **Who have for my life laid down their own necks:** unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, **who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.**

6 Greet Mary, **who bestowed much labour on us.**

7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, **my kinsmen,** and **my fellowprisoners,** who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

8 Greet Amplias **my beloved in the Lord.**

9 Salute Urbane, **our helper in Christ,** and Stachys **my beloved.**

10 Salute Apelles **approved in Christ.** Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household.

11 Salute Herodion my **kinsman.** Greet them that be of the household of Narcissus, **which are in the Lord.**

12 Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, **who labour in the Lord.** Salute the beloved Persis, **which laboured much in the Lord.**

13 Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

14 Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren which are with them.

15 Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them.

16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

18 **For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.**

19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

21 Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, **my kinsmen,** salute you.

22 I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord.

23 Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

24 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

KJV

CONCLUSION