

3/20/2022

Ephesians Series: Position and Purpose

Ephesians 4:1-3 pt 1 - Vocation

Welcome

Dismiss kids

Intro

- **Are you full yet?**
 - We are eating a Cheeseburger
 - Six months to this point.....a little more than 6 more to go to finish this book.
- Recall chapter 1: 1-14
 - Words like:
 - **Predestination**
 - **Adoption as God's Children**
 - **Redemption**
 - **Forgiveness**
 - **Inheritance**
 - **Salvation**
 - **Sealed by the Spirit**
 - **The promised Holy Spirit**
 - **Guarantee**
 - **Possession**
- Recall We can **Rest in our Position in Christ**
 - Holy, Blameless, Loved, Adopted by God, Highly Favored, Redeemed, Forgiven, Inheritance, Saved, Sealed by the Spirit, Guaranteed Heavenly citizenship, God's possession
- **A couple of questions from the opening:**
 - **What about God's Word is "cool" in society, but is NOT COOL with God?**
 - Hawaii - cultural immersion - Good to know history
 - "Spiritual but not Religious" - many gods
 - Conversation about marriage - multiple wives - Not God's plan
 - **What about God's Word is "cool" with God, but is NOT COOL with society?**

We are ready to dive into the second half of the book.

- Purpose part of our series.
- Next three weeks - verses 1-3. Much to unpack in these verses.

Read Ephesians 4:1-3 (KJV)

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

PRAY

There is a good reason to break these verses up into three parts. (highlighted terms)

- One could....and we will fill about three hours teaching on these terms
- But for today....just a couple of them.....focus on verse 1

Paul begins with term:

- Therefore
 - For there are **many reasons for not exhorting people to walk earnestly and carefully, and worthily of their high name and knowledge. It is much pleasanter to dwell exclusively upon the privileges and blessings of Christianity, and to leave its heavy responsibilities and penalties out of sight.** But this "therefore" was something that moved the apostle, even from his prison, to fill half his Epistle with earnest, importunate, and pointed admonitions. A very potent "therefore" it must have been — but what was it? **It does not appear to have been any one statement or fact in particular, but rather all that has gone before;** as if, pausing at the end of the third chapter, he had been reading over what he had written, and had been so moved by it that he felt compelled, constrained, to break off into this exhortation. It is this strong feeling in his mind which finds expression in that word "therefore." And what was it that he had been writing about? Why, **it was the marvellous grace and loving kindness of God towards the Gentiles revealed to him, and preached by him; their fellowship in Christ, their union with the remnant of Israel and with one another in one divinely constituted body, their eternal predestination to this grace and adoption in Christ.**
- Prisoner of the Lord
 - It is not the focus of the message this morning, but I think it is important to note
 - Chapter 3 verse 1 - same phrase (Jesus Christ instead of Lord)
 - Chapter 6 verse 20 - similar phrase..Ambassador in bonds
 - It is not that he was a prisoner because of what he had done....or debt...or prisoner of war....
 - But a captive of the work of the Lord.....Paul's reference here is that the Lord allowed him to be a prisoner....so that God would be glorified.
 - The sense that it isin service to the Lord
- Beseech
 - Call for, desire, intreat

Focus on two terms

- **Walk worthy and Vocation**

- Other terms (Lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing, Endeavor, Unity of the Spirit, Bond of peace)...may mention along the way...but I'll leave for PK over the next couple of weeks.

In teaching this morning, I'm actually going to address Vocation first

"....**Vocation wherewith ye are called**..."

- Jobs training - back around 2014-2015...we were still CrossRoads Church
- Recession, just coming out of it.
- Skills to help people find work.....and succeed in the work workplace
- One night a week for 4 weeks.....PK coordinated some guaranteed interviews for those that completed.
- As I prepared for teaching this morning....this passage so much speaks to me in the same way as jobs training.....so I want to give you a mini Jobs training session this morning.

Week 1: Gospel and SHAPE

- Chapters 1-3 of Ephesians are that foundational information. Our Position in Christ
- After PK shared gospel, I got to spend the rest of night and the first part of night 2 exploring with the students who they were.
- **Made for work**
 - Multiple places in scripture point to work.
 - Direct relation to the our text "Vocation wherewith ye are called
 - We were made for work.....note the text.....not IF -
- **Then we talked about SHAPE...everyone has one.**
- **Spiritual Gifts** - Special set of gifts that God has given you
 - Share his love AND Build up the body of Christ
 - Examples: Administration, Helping, Hospitality, Leadership, Teaching
- **Heart** - Can be thought of as an "emotional heartbeat"
 - What drives you? Whom do you care about?
 - What needs would you like to meet?
 - What causes or issues make your heart race?
 - What God-centered dream would you fulfill?
 - **Paul - here we go back to the the notion of Prisoner**
- **Abilities** - What do you excel at? (Analyst, builder, coach, computers, cook, etc)
 - Can be natural or learned
 - Can be developed formally or informally,

- Can be evident or hidden
- **Personality** -
 - How you relate to others, respond to opportunities
- **Experiences** - Spiritual Journey, painful experiences, education experiences, past vocations

We used this time to get folks to understand that success in a vocation doesn't just happen. In searching for jobs, it is critical that you know the job description and how you will fit into the company.

In our second and third week of job training....we spent time teaching about reading job descriptions, and preparing for the interview, researching a company, and things like that.

So let's do that a bit.....what does the "vocation" of our text consist of?

- **It is the greek work klēsis, klay'-sis**
 - from a shorter form of G2564; **an invitation (figuratively):—calling.**
 - Used 11 times - can be the description of the job.
- postings are formatted differently, but usually have KSA
- **from these we can get the Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSA) of our job description**
 - Our job is posted as **Christianity**
 - **Calling of God** - Romans 11 and Phillipians 3 (Remember **God wants ME** from early in our Ephesian series)
 - God Himself who calls us from darkness to light, and from the kingdom of Satan into the kingdom of His dear Son.
 - **High calling** - prize attached to it is eternal life.
 - **Holy calling** - the end and purpose of it (at least on earth) is holiness.
 - **Heavenly calling** - it comes from and draws us to heaven.
 - **Hope of our calling** - is the hope which those called by God to serve Him may cherish. It belongs to the brethren alone, and proceeds entirely from God (**1Co** 1:26). This is what our fathers termed effectual calling, and it occupies a prominent place in all our systems of theology. The doctrine is based upon, or takes for granted the following principles —
 - **(1)** That the **human race is fallen**, and needs to be restored to God.
 - **(2)** That even this fallen and redeemed race **cannot of itself return to God**, but needs the assistance of a Divine call.
 - **(3)** That the election and the calling are co-extensive.

- (4) That, therefore, **the salvation of the Church is, in its origin, means, and end, to be ascribed to the pure and sovereign will of God.** Our walk should be worthy of this vocation. There ought to be some relation between our conduct and our hopes, between our character and the promised reward. If His love has opened up to us glorious and immortal hopes, should not our service correspond to them? Worthy of His calling? It is a great, high, noble principle. It is a rule of life which lifts us from the dust, and gives us the position, hopes, and fears of immortal creatures. (*W. Graham, D. D.*)

In our job training....it is important to recognize that companies and work places have a culture.

Military Service core values

- Slightly different for each service.
- Driven somewhat by their mission
- similarly.....University Core Values: **Integrity, Compassion, Explorations, Adaptation, Inclusion, Determination**

First three weeks of Jobs training we cover all these concepts.....SHAPE, company culture, core values....all these things play into the concept of the vocation....your calling.

Week 4 of jobs training then we turned our focus to How to keep the job (Walk Worthy)

- Disclaimer - eternal security of the believer, no such thing as “good christian”, “bad christian”, not a works doctrine.
- But for illustration purposes to what Paul is writing

Walk Worthy

- Wanted to finish with this because the descriptors we find in verses 2 and 3 very much sum up what those are. But I also want to think about the phrase WALK WORTHY...on it's own merits....without the vs 2 and 3 descriptors.
- I mentioned KSA.....this is the Skills and Abilities part of our job description.
- In some jobs....with privileges....there are **obligations**
 - Again I'll repeat - **God Wants ME**
- **In the military....we use the Uniform Code of Military Justice.**
 - Similar....but different than civilian legal system
 - Article 133 - Conduct Unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.
- Military wants conformity
- Paul here is calling.....beseech.....us to the same sense of obligation.

- Because of the descriptors of the “calling”...or vocation that we previously covered - there are 4 obligations to remember as we move forward in this book.
- **We must first study the principles of our calling**
 - (Eph 1:17): That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
- **Claim the privileges of the calling**
 - (Eph 3:16-19) - Bill covered well...riches of his glory....rooted and grounded in love....comprehending
- **cultivate the spirit of the calling (Eph 4:2-3).**
 - We are going to cover these
 - There is a mindset, there are actions, there are goals.
- **We must perform the duties of the calling**
 - John 14:23 (KJV) Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

I count it a great privilege to be able to “do the vocation” of Christianity.

(NEXT..Eph4:1-3) Theme of worthy is found elsewhere

- Philippians 1:27 (KJV) Only let your conversation be **as it becometh** the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;
- Colossians 1:10 (KJV) That ye might **walk worthy** of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- 1 Thessalonians 2:12 (KJV) That ye would **walk worthy** of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Application Questions

- To What (or...To Where) am I being called?
- Does KSA's need any updates?

Pray