Sunday, January 24, 2021

"The Calling" Introduction

Ephesians 4:1-6

David H. McKinley

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"Every believer has a calling on their life."

[1]I Therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, [2]with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3]eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. [4]There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—[5]one Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6]one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

—Ephesians 4:1-6

1. You Have a Calling on Your Life

… [18]having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, [19]and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might [20]that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, [21]far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. —Ephesians 1:18-21

We are called…
- With purpose— Romans 8:28, 30
- Apart from Merit— 1 Corinthians 1:2, 9, 26
- To Freedom—Galatians 5:13
- In Hope—Ephesians 4:4
- Upward—Philippians 3:14
- Together—Colossians 3:15
- To Glory—1 Thessalonians 2:12
- In Holiness—1 Thessalonians 4:7
- To Fight—1 Timothy 6:12
- By Grace—2 Timothy 1:9
- To an Inheritance—Hebrews 9:15
- To Honor—James 2:7
- To Light—1 Peter 2:9
- Through Suffering—1 Peter 2:21
- With Power—2 Peter 1:3
- God's Children—1 John 3:1
- For Safe Keeping—Jude 1:1

2. Your Calling and My Calling is Our Calling

"The process is really what you have to do day in and day out to be successful. We try to define the standard that we want

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everybody to sort of work toward, adhere to, and do it on a consistent basis. And the things that I talked about before, being responsible for your own self-determination, having a positive attitude, having a great work ethic, having discipline to be able to execute on a consistent basis, whatever it is you're trying to do, those are the things that we try to focus on, and we don't try to focus as much on the outcomes as we do on being all that you can be." —Coach Nick Saban

[11]And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12]to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13]until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14]so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. [15]Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, [16]from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. —Ephesians 4:11-16

3. Our Calling is to Know and Experience God and Live for the Glory of Christ

[14]For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15]from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, [16]that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, [17]so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18]may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19]and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. [20]Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21]to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. —Ephesians 3:14-21

"Your life is much bigger than a good job, an understanding spouse, and non-delinquent kids. It is bigger than beautiful gardens, nice vacations and fashionable clothes. In reality, you are part of something immense, something that began before you were born and will continue after you die. God is rescuing fallen humanity, transporting them into His kingdom, and progressively changing them into His likeness— and He wants you to be part of it." —Paul Tripp

Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls. —Matthew 11:28-29

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