

January 27, 2019

Pastor Steve Hardy

The Called, the Chosen, the Faithful

1 Thessalonians 1:2-5

When the Lamb, the “Lord of lords and King of kings” comes to vanquish the Beast (Revelation 17), we are told “those with him are the *called* and *chosen* and *faithful*” (Revelation 17:14). These words characterize the followers of Jesus, describing what is true of those who have believed and have obviously established a relationship with the Lord. These very traits give the apostle Paul confidence in the status of the believers in Thessalonica!

I. The followers of Jesus are CALLED, 1 Thessalonians 1:5; Acts 17:3.

II. The followers of Jesus are CHOSEN, 1 Thessalonians 1:4; Matthew 22:1-14.

III. The followers of Jesus are FAITHFUL, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; 2 Peter 1:10.

The simple reality of what is true of genuine followers of Jesus seems to beg the question of the relationship between God’s choosing (our election) and our choosing (trusting Christ Jesus). The text suggests we experience these things in the order given in Revelation, but the point is they are all true and offer assurance to and about the one who is truly saved.

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. Describe the who, what, where, why, and how of the “calling” to follow Jesus. Use the example of the call to the Thessalonians from Acts 17, as referred to by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 1 and 2. Then tell how you were called, or perhaps are being called to follow Jesus.
2. Paul knows the believers he is writing to are chosen or elect (1 Thessalonians 1:4). How does he know (1:5, 9-10)? As you think about the situation in Acts 17, were all the “called” among the “chosen”? How important was it that Paul know whether they were chosen when he presented the call (the gospel)? Put another way, if not all are chosen, why should all be called?
3. The parable of the wedding feast in Matthew 22:1-14 ends with these sober words, “For many are called, but few are chosen” (22:14). Who and how many are called (22:3, 9)? In the end, how do you know who is chosen? How do you understand the significance of the guy who gets in but can’t stay?
4. What is the relationship of the works of the Thessalonian believers (1:3, 9) to Paul’s confidence in their salvation (that they are in fact “chosen”)? What does this suggest about the matter of assurance of salvation, either our own or someone else’s?

NEXT WEEK: Communion Service



Read as a family the parable of Matthew 22:1-14. Talk about the three responses to the invitation made by the king: Refusal, acceptance without proper preparation, and appropriate acceptance. What is the result of each response, and who gets to remain at the king’s wedding feast? When and how do you know which “few” are the “chosen” to remain at the feast?