***“He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it”***

*1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

**Introduction**

1. Christians are those who have answered the call of God ***(cf. v. 24 – “He who calls you…”)***.
2. This call of God is not without purpose or end – ***“God…calls you into His own kingdom and glory” (2:12)***.
3. However, this call ***“into His own kingdom and glory”*** involves a process. We must ***“walk worthy of the calling with which [we] were called” (Ephesians 4:1).***
4. In **1 Thessalonians 5:12-22**, Paul described in his exhortations such a walk that IS WORTHY of that calling.
5. **His epistle ends with the reassurance that God is trustworthy in His promise to accomplish this great task within us.**
6. **We must trust our trustworthy God, but we must not forget how that trust is shown on our part, and how exactly God has intended to accomplish this great task in us.**
7. The Goal
8. Complete Sanctification
   1. **1 Thessalonians 5:23** – complete sanctification.
      1. **Sanctify** – *hagiazō*; to make holy, i.e. (ceremonially) purify or consecrate.
      2. **It is the idea of being SET APART, namely, for God – consecrated to God.**
      3. **Starting point** – **cf. Colossians 1:13** – Set apart from the power of darkness, into the kingdom, for service to God in the kingdom.
      4. ***“completely”*** – Sanctification is something that must be COMPLETED – it is a process. (*WERE sanctified, and are CONTINUING to be until their sanctification is COMPLETED.*)
   2. **1 Peter 1:13-16** – There is a process of sanctification.
      1. It is the process described by Peter.
      2. **We are to have our minds gathered toward the purpose of serving God, and reaching the goal of heaven, while we seek to grow in our NEW LIVES in holiness before our holy God.**
   3. **Romans 6:1-4, 15-22** – We were sanctified (set apart for God) in our baptism, but are continually to set ourselves apart for God in the “newness of life” that we live.
      1. **(v. 19)** – ***“so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.” (NASB)***
      2. (**v. 22)** – The END of this continual work of sanctification is ***“everlasting life.”***
   4. Sanctification is a process of being continually (Day after day) set apart from sin, to the service of God, until it is consummated at the coming of Jesus.
   5. **It is Paul’s prayer that the Thessalonians have their *“whole”* or entire being set apart to God, so that, at the coming of Jesus they may be found *“blameless.”* 🡪**
9. Preserved Blameless
   1. This process of sanctification – *continually being set apart from sin to the service of God* – **ensures that we will be found blameless at the coming of Christ**.
   2. **2 Peter 3:11-14** – Because the earth will be destroyed when Jesus comes, and we will be judged for what we have done on this earth, we should live so as to be found by Him as ***“blameless.”***
   3. As we are continually setting ourselves apart to God, and living holy lives, we (**in entirety** – ***“spirit, soul, and body”***) are being preserved blameless for the judgment day.
10. **It is God who is working in us toward this end 🡪**
11. The Execution
12. He Is Faithful, and Will Do It
    1. **God is trustworthy, and has given us His promise that these things will be accomplished by Him in us.**
    2. **Jude 24** – He is ABLE to keep us, and present us faultless.
    3. God did not call us to salvation, and then abandon us – or else we could not reach the goal – “***With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Mathew 19:26).***
    4. **Philippians 1:3-6** – He began a good work in the Philippians, and would complete it – He did not leave them alone.
       1. ***Context*** **(v. 5)** – Their laboring in the spreading of the gospel with Paul.
       2. **However, this is merely a specific of the broader concept of sanctification toward the preservation in blamelessness for salvation.**
       3. God called us to salvation, and continues to work in us toward that end.
    5. **However, we must know how God works to accomplish this task:**
       1. **2 Thessalonians 2:13-15** – The salvation and sanctification is accomplished through ***“the Spirit and belief in the truth.”***
          1. For this reason the Thessalonians needed to keep the traditions handed them.
          2. This is how God sanctifies us, and brings us to salvation.
       2. **Romans 1:16-17** – The power of God to salvation is expressly offered IN THE GOSPEL.
       3. **John 17:17** – We are sanctified by the truth – the word of God.
    6. **While this is a task being accomplished by God in us, the way in which He is working shows a necessity of compliance with Him on our part 🡪**
13. We Must Comply
    1. **Philippians 2:12-13** – We must work out our own salvation, but take comfort in the fact that we are not alone, and God is working in us.
       1. However, this does not suggest we have no part to play.
       2. Rather, we can refuse to allow God to work in us if we do not submit by doing our part.
    2. **1 Corinthians 15:1-2** – The Corinthians were showing their rejection of the gospel by their rejection of the Resurrection doctrine.
       1. They stood in the gospel, and would be saved by the gospel.
       2. However, if they did not hold it fast, and remain faithful in it they would be lost.
    3. **Romans 11:19-24** – It was God who grafted in the Gentiles – He accomplished that work in them.
       1. However, if they did not continue in His goodness they would be cut off like the Jews.
       2. Likewise, God would be able to perform the work of grafting in the Jews if they believed as did the Gentiles.
    4. **We can be encouraged, and take comfort in the fact that God will do what He said He would do. He called us to salvation, and He will accomplish that in us. However, we must do our part He has given for us to do.**

**Conclusion**

1. God has not called us to something we are unable to attain.
2. He will continue to work in us until we are complete in Him, and receive the salvation of our souls.
3. However, we must understand the nature of God’s work, and how He accomplishes it.
4. Part of that work involves our compliance with His will.
5. ***“He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it”*** – **so come to Him in full trust and obedience.**