

# As unto the Lord

## Why Us?

### Matthew 25:40,45 –

40 In as much as you do it to one of these, the least of My brethren, you do it to Me.'

45 In as much as you do it not to one of these, the least, neither do you it to Me.'

**Matthew 22:14** - For many are **the** called, yet few are **the** chosen."

It seems to me that we—that is, members of the body of Christ—are in a season of personal, intimate accountability for our lives, according to who we are in Christ.

### Ephesians 1:

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **Who blesses us with every spiritual blessing among the celestials**, in Christ,

4 according as **He chooses us in Him before the disruption of the world**, we to be **holy and flawless** in His sight, **[Flawless=without spot or blemish. The Father chooses us to be concentrated, set apart AND without spot or blemish...How are we looking?]**

5 in love designating us beforehand for the place of a son for Him through Christ Jesus; in accord with **the delight of His will**,

6 for **the laud of the glory of His grace**, which graces **us in the Beloved**:

7 in Whom we are having the deliverance through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses in accord with the riches of His grace,

8 which He **lavishes** on us; in all wisdom and prudence [understanding]

9 **making known to us the secret of His will** (in accord with His delight, which He purposed in Him)

...

11 in Him in Whom our lot was cast also, being designated beforehand according to the purpose of the One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will,

12 that **we should be for the laud of His glory**, who are **pre-expectant** in the Christ.

The witness, of course, is to the celestials, as we've seen before:

### Ephesians 2:7

in the oncoming eons, He should be displaying the transcendent riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

### 3:10-12

that now may be made known to the sovereignties and the authorities among the celestials, through the ecclesia, the multifarious wisdom of God,

11 in accord with the purpose of the eons, which He makes in Christ Jesus, our Lord;  
12 in Whom we have boldness and access with confidence, through His faith.

### What's the difference between **the called** and **the chosen**?

**1 Peter 2:7** – To you, then, who are believing, is the **honor**,

20 For what credit is it if, sinning and being buffeted, you will be enduring it? But if, doing good and suffering, you will be enduring, this is grace with God.

21 For **for this were you called**, seeing that Christ also suffered for your sakes, leaving you a copy, that you should be **following up in the footprints of Him**

**1 Cor. 7:**

20 Each one in the calling in which he was called, in this let him be remaining.

21 Were you called a slave? Let it not be causing you care. But if you are able to become free also, use it rather.

22 For, in the Lord, he who is being called a slave, is the Lord's freedman. Likewise, he who is being called, being free, is a slave of Christ.

23 With a price are you bought. Do not become the slaves of men.

24 Each one, in what he was called, brethren, in this let him remain with God.

**Mark 9:35** – "If anyone is wanting to be first, he will be last of all, and servant of all."

**10:43-44:**

But whosoever may be wanting to become great among you, will be your servant.

44 And whosoever may be wanting to be foremost among you, will be the slave of all.

This is not someone being **put in his place** but rather someone **rightly taking his place**. This is how we become "great." It is a matter of our calling. Christ bids us to do as He did:

45 For even the Son of Mankind came, not to be served, but to serve, and to give His soul a ransom for many."

**Romans 1:** Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a **called** apostle, severed for the evangel of God  
**Acts 13:2**

the holy spirit said, "Sever, by all means, to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

### CHOSEN

**Acts 9:**

15 Yet the Lord said to him "Go, for he is a **choice instrument** of Mine, to bear My name before both the nations and kings, besides the sons of Israel,

16 for **I shall be intimating to him** how much he must be suffering for My name's sake."

Christ told Annanias to tell Saul this. Why didn't he send someone to tell Paul how much he would have to suffer for His name's sake?

### **Mark 1:**

9 And it occurred in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and is baptized in the Jordan by John.

10 And straightway, stepping up out of the water, He perceived the heavens rent, and the spirit, as a dove, descending and remaining on Him.

11 And a voice came out of the heavens, "**Thou art My Son, the Beloved; in Thee I delight.**"

12 And straightway the spirit is ejecting Him into the wilderness.

### **9:7**

7 And there came a cloud overshadowing them. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My Son, the Beloved. **Hear** Him!"

### **Colossians 3:**

12 Put on, then, as **God's chosen ones**, holy and beloved, pitiful compassions, kindness, humility, meekness, patience,

13 bearing with one another and dealing graciously among yourselves...

### **What are we called to?**

### **2 Timothy 2**

20 Now in a great house there are not only gold and silver utensils, but wooden and earthenware also, and some indeed for honor, yet some for dishonor.

21 **If**, then, anyone should ever be **purging himself** from these, he will be a utensil for honor, hallowed, and useful to the Owner, made ready for every good act.

Notice where the accountability lies, e.g.: "purging himself"

### **Romans 12:**

9 Let love be unfeigned. Abhorring that which is wicked, clinging to good,

10 Let us have fond affection for one another with brotherly fondness, in honor deeming one another first,

11 in diligence not slothful, fervent in spirit, slaving for the Lord,

12 rejoicing in expectation, enduring affliction, persevering in prayer,

13 contributing to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality.

## Colossians 1

9 Therefore we also, from the day on which we hear, do not cease praying for you and requesting that you may be filled full with the realization of His will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,

10 you **to walk worthily of the Lord** for all pleasing, bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the realization of God;

## Ephesians 4:

1 I am entreating you, then, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to **walk worthily** of the calling with which you were called,

2 with all humility and meekness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit with the tie of peace:

4 one body and one spirit, according as you were called also with one expectation of your calling;

5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 one God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all.

**Philippians 1:27** Only be citizens walking **worthily** of the evangel of Christ

## 2:14

**All be doing without murmurings and reasonings,**

15 that you may become **blameless and artless**, children of God, flawless, in the midst of a generation crooked and perverse among whom you are appearing as luminaries in the world,

Artless= "unmixed, pure as in wines or metals; of the mind, without a mixture of evil, free from guile, innocent, simple"

Luminary= Light-er. Not just a light, but as one who lights! Paul did not use the word "light," as in, "you are appearing as lights in the world;" rather he wrote, "you are appearing as ones who light, or who bring light in the world."

## Ephesians 5:2

be walking in love, according as Christ also loves you, and gives Himself up for us

## Whom are we called to serve?

Husbands to wives, wives to husbands, brothers and sisters in Christ to one another, slaves to masters (employees to employers), and all to the Father and to the Lord.

Marriages seem especially under a microscope; probably because marriage is ordained by and is holy to God. I can find only one example, in fact, in which a husband and wife are shown as walking together as one: Priscilla and Aquilla. They are always written about together, and one is not singled out as in any way greater than the other. I can find no other such example in all of scripture.

Everywhere else: one is chosen, sovereignly, for God's purpose, while the other remains called to a supportive role. See Sarah, Moses' wife, Joseph (Mary's husband). Many spouses aren't even mentioned (Miriam's husband)! Ezekiel's wife is an example of total expendability!

### **Ezekiel 24:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> "Son of man, with one blow I am about to take away from you the delight of your eyes. Yet do not lament or weep or shed any tears. <sup>17</sup> Groan quietly; do not mourn for the dead. Keep your turban fastened and your sandals on your feet; do not cover your mustache and beard or eat the customary food of mourners."

<sup>18</sup> So I spoke to the people in the morning, and in the evening my wife died. The next morning I did as I had been commanded.

### **Ephesians 5:**

15 Be observing accurately, then, brethren, how you are walking, not as unwise, but as wise,

22 Let the wives be subject to their own husbands, as to the Lord

...25 Husbands, be loving your wives according as Christ also loves the ecclesia, and gives Himself up for its sake,

### **Eph. 6:1 –**

1 Children, be obeying your parents, in the Lord, for this is just

4 fathers, do not be vexing your children, but be nurturing them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.

5 Slaves, be obeying your masters according to the flesh with fear and trembling, in the singleness of your heart, as to Christ

9 And, masters, be doing the same toward them, being lax in threatening, being aware that their Master as well as yours is in the heavens, and there is no partiality with Him.

### **Why this? Because it is dangerous as Hell out here!**

### **Ephesians 6:**

11 Put on the panoply of God, to enable you to stand up to the stratagems of the Adversary,

12 for it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials.

13 Therefore take up the panoply of God that you may be enabled to withstand in the wicked day, and having effected all, to stand.

14 Stand, then, girded about your loins with truth, with the cuirass of righteousness put on,

15 and your feet sandaled with the readiness of the evangel of peace;  
16 with all taking up the large shield of faith, by which you will be able to extinguish all the fiery arrows of the wicked one.  
17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is a declaration of God.

### **Go back to marriage for a minute:**

#### **1 Peter 2**

15 For thus it is the will of God, by doing good to be muzzling the ignorance of imprudent men;  
16 as free, and not as having freedom for a cover over evil, but as God's slaves.  
17 Honor all; love the brotherhood; fear God; honor the king.  
18 Domestics may do it by being subject to your owners, with all fear, not only to the good and lenient, but to the crooked also

#### **1 Peter 3**

1 Likewise wives may do it by being subject to their own husbands, that, if any are stubborn also, as to the word, they will be gained without a word, through the behavior of their wives  
...  
7 Husbands, likewise, may do it by making a home with them according to knowledge, **awarding honor to the feminine as to the weaker vessel**, as to those who are also joint enjoyers of the allotment of the varied grace of life, **that your prayers be not hindered.**

### **To what purpose?**

#### **2 Cor. 5: 9-10**

Wherefore we are ambitious also, whether at home or away from home, **to be well pleasing to Him.**  
10 For all of us must be manifested in front of **the dais of Christ**, that each should be requited for that which he puts into practice through the body, whether good or bad.

#### **Chapter 6**

1 Now, working together, we are also **entreating you not to receive the grace of God for naught.**

#### **Romans 14:12**

12 Consequently, then, each of us shall be giving account concerning himself to God.

## **2 Cor. 9:6-7**

who is sowing sparingly, sparingly shall be reaping also, and who is sowing bountifully, bountifully shall be reaping also,  
7 each according as he has proposed in his heart, not sorrowfully, nor of compulsion, for *the gleeful giver is loved by God*

## **Where does Expendability come in?**

### **Romans 11:**

21 For if God spares not the natural boughs, neither will He be sparing you!  
22 Perceive, then, the kindness and severity of God! On those, indeed, who are falling, severity, yet on you, God's kindness, if you should be persisting in the kindness: else you also will be hewn out.

### **Hebrews 12:**

5 And you have been oblivious of the entreaty which is arguing with you as with sons: My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord, Nor yet faint when being exposed by Him.  
6 For whom the Lord is loving He is disciplining, Yet He is scourging every son to whom He is assenting.  
7 For discipline are you enduring. As to sons is God bringing it to you, for what son is there whom the father is not disciplining?  
8 Now if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, consequently you are bastards and not sons.  
9 Thereafter, indeed, we had the fathers of our flesh as discipliners, and we respected them. Yet shall we not much rather be subjected to the Father of spirits and be living.  
10 For these, indeed, disciplined for a few days as it seemed best to them, yet that One for our expedience, for us to be partaking of His holiness.  
11 Now all discipline, indeed, for the present is not seeming to be a thing of joy, but of sorrow, yet subsequently it is rendering the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those exercised through it.  
12 Wherefore stiffen the flaccid hands and the paralyzed knees,  
13 and make upright tracks for your feet, that the lame one may not turn aside, yet rather may be healed.