

Why Christians Are Called to Commitment

Lesson Text: **2 Timothy 1:9**

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **2 Timothy 1:8-9** – . . . According to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,
- B. Not only are we called, but we are called “with a holy calling.”
1. God does the calling.
 2. The calling comes through the gospel.
 3. The church is made up of those who have accepted that calling in obedience.
- C. May we suggest:
1. Christians are Called OUT.
 2. Christians are Called IN.
 3. Christians are Called DOWN.
 4. Christians will be Called UP.

CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED OUT.

- A. **2 Corinthians 6:17** - Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."
- B. Some try to hold on to God with one hand and to sin and the world with the other. This is impossible to do;
1. We cannot serve God and Satan at the same time.
 2. Trying to heed to opposing calls in life cannot work effectively.
Illustration: Youth trying to listen to parents and peers.
 3. **Matthew 6:24** - No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. One has to set priorities.
- C. Christians are called out of the old life of sin.
1. Called away from the love of money.
 2. Called away from the lust for illicit sex.
 3. Called away from living just for pleasure.
 4. Called away from all that is opposed to God and His holy will.
- D. The called love God's presence . . . God's purpose . . . and God's people. They are separated for the Lord.

CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED IN.

- A. **2 Corinthians 5:17** - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- B. Christ died on the cross to bring mankind back into fellowship with God. All who turn in obedience to Him become new creatures in Christ.
- C. Christians are called into God's service to serve God and His will.
 - 1. Yes, God is to be worshipped, but there is more.
 - 2. Christians are to glorify God upon the earth . . . It is God's will.
 - 3. Christians are to feel compassion for others . . . It is God's will.
 - 4. Christians are to help the needy . . . It is God's will.
 - 5. Christians are to reach as many of the lost as possible . . . It is God's will.
- D. Christians should deeply desire that others become new creatures in Christ.

CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED DOWN.

- A. **1 Peter 2:21** - For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.
- B. The footsteps will lead one:
 - 1. Through the waters of baptism.
 - 2. Through the wilderness of temptation.
 - 3. To the house of worship.
 - 4. Through the fields of service.
 - 5. Upon the mountain of prayer.
 - 6. Through the garden of despair.
 - 7. To the cross of suffering.
 - 8. Through the valley of death.
 - 9. To the throne of God.
- C. Christians are sometimes called down into the valley of:
 - 1. Suffering and sorrow.
 - 2. Testing and trial.
 - 3. Perplexity and persecution.
- D. **2 Timothy 3:12** - Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
- E. God always has a purpose in what He allows.
 - 1. It may be to teach patience.
 - 2. It may be to test our faith.
 - 3. It may be to teach others.
 - 4. It may be to train one for greater service.
- F. God has special help for Christians who are called to go down into the valley. We should not be afraid, for God is with us. Remember **Psalms 23:4** - Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me . . . and it will!

CHRISTIANS WILL BE CALLED UP.

- A. **1 Thessalonians 4:17** - Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
- B. Throughout the centuries Christians have looked forward to eternal life with Christ in the heavenly home He has promised.
- C. **John 14:1-3** - Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.
In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.
- D. It is little wonder that in reference to our heavenly home the Scriptures say in **1 Corinthians 2:9** - But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."
- E. The church will be called up. **1 Corinthians 15:24** - Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Yes, Christians are indeed called to commitment.
1. Christians are called OUT.
 2. Christians are called IN.
 3. Christians are called DOWN.
 4. Christians will be called UP.
- B. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation.**