



Who are the called, chosen, and faithful”???

Rev 17:14 (NRSV) they will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.

Lots and lots of people claim to be Christians. This creates a dilemma because if everyone who claims to be a Christian is really a Christian, then our world should be a much better place than it is right now. There is definitely a difference in degree as to what people mean by being Christian. We need to look into the Bible’s definition of a true Christian and see how it can apply to us today. By searching the scriptures, we should be able to identify what is meant by these terms: called, chosen and faithful.

Who are the called?

The scriptures describe “calling” in a couple of different ways. John the Baptist was calling the nation of Israel to repentance because the Kingdom of Heaven was near (Matt 3:1-3). Jesus came not to call the righteous, but to call the sinners to repentance (Luke 5:30-32). This general call was to turn away from sin and follow God. If the people could turn away from sin, they would then be blessed with another calling, the “high calling”, the one to take up the cross of sacrifice and follow Jesus.

Php 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Mt 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me

This second calling requires the denying of oneself, and the faith in Jesus as the Messiah such as to follow Him. This following is more than professing a belief in Jesus, it is following in Jesus’ footsteps all the way to death. Anyone who believes in Jesus can and will be saved, but not all will be heirs with Him. Only those who suffer with Him will also reign with Him.

Re 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

So the called are ones to which God offers a distinct privilege of service, to sacrifice their life as did Jesus. The next step is to decide whether or not to answer the call.

Who are the chosen?

Mat 22:14 (NRSV) For many are called, but few are chosen."

The scriptures clearly indicate that the “called” ones are different than the “chosen” ones. Not all who are called will answer the call, but those who count the cost, and do answer by making a covenant to sacrifice and laying down their lives to serve and follow Jesus are the chosen ones.

Psa 50:4-5 (NRSV) He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

2Ti 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:

God has special care over His chosen ones. Romans 8:28 tells us that all things work together for good to them that love God, those who are called (and accepted the call) according to His purpose. But answering

the call and becoming chosen requires much work if we would be counted faithful. When we are chosen of God, we automatically become enemies of the world, because Satan is the god of this world (2Cor 4:4) and he is blinding the minds of men. When we accept God's call, we are given the light of the holy spirit, and we are to let our light shine (Matt 5:16). In doing so, we reprove the darkness and the evil that surrounds us.

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

It is not an easy path to have a love of the truth, to seek to know and do God's will, and to lay our lives down in sacrifice for Jesus' sake. It is a constant struggle against all the evil influences that surround us. Out of all those who are chosen, not all will be successful at battling those influences.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Who are the faithful?

The faithful are those chosen ones who are successful at overcoming the evil in this world. They are tried, tested, and proven. They are faithful unto death.

1 Pet 4:12-13 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

Re 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Revelation also gives us some clues to the above questions. In chapters 7 and 14, there is mention of the 144,000 who are with the lamb. These are the overcomers who will sit in Jesus' throne (Rev 3:21). These are the faithful. There is also mention of a great multitude which no man could number standing before the throne. These are the chosen – they made a covenant of sacrifice, but were not faithful enough to reign with Christ in His throne. The rest of the world of mankind will have the opportunity in Christ's kingdom to obey righteousness and have life. May we be faithful in answering the call and laying down our lives in sacrifice.

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Vol 0106.1