

DECEMBER 12, 2022

## Living Out Our Calling Erik Luchetta

God gives each of us different callings, and with it, unique gifts and talents. Your specific calling might be different than mine. However, Ephesians 4:1 is talking about our one calling that all of us share in. The one thing every believer is called to do.

You might even call it the Christian vocation - the job of every believer. Ephesians 4:1, in the King James Version says to “walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called.” A vocation is simply a job or occupation that requires dedication. And Paul is clear that it’s an every-Christian vocation.

We are God’s image bearers. Our primary job is to cause the world to better reflect heaven. This idea of working in the world to make it better reflect heaven is what it means for us to “rule” over creation. Humans express their rulership, their authority, when they work to make the earth look more like heaven.

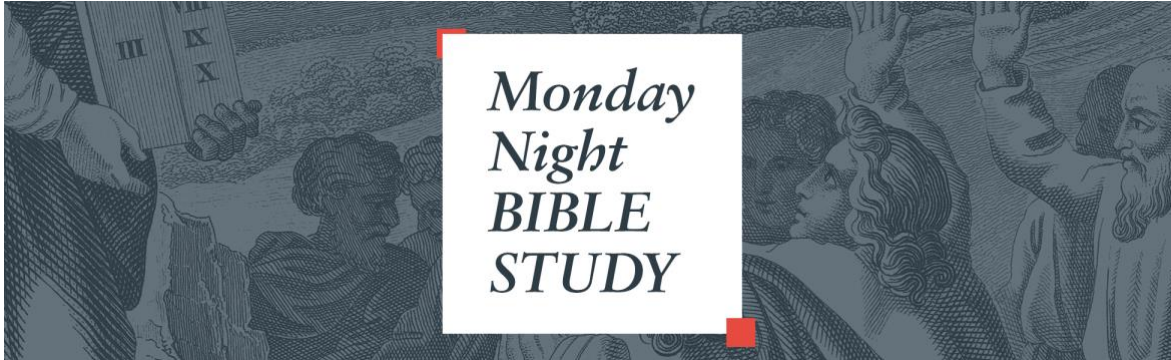
This high honor of ruling, this status of bearing God’s image in the world, is what the Bible calls our “glory”. In the Bible, the “glory” given to humans doesn’t refer to a radiant, shining brilliance. God’s glory, as it relates to mankind, is our rulership over the world for the purpose of making it better reflect heaven. No other creature in the world has been given that sort of calling.

Through Jesus, we have been restored to pick up the calling that God first gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden. This original calling of Adam, made restored in Jesus, is the calling of the church.

God originally created the world as perfect. God filled the Garden of Eden with everything we could ever need. There was no lack, no suffering, no death. The Garden of Eden was the mirror image of heaven itself.

But Adam and Eve sinned and God’s world fell into chaos. Sin brought with it things the world had never seen before – death, sickness, lack, damaged relationships. Injustice entered the world. The earth no longer perfectly reflected heaven and the Garden of Eden was gone. God immediately went to work to restore His world.

One day God will make the world perfect again. This is why the prophets spoke of a time where the wolf and the lamb would live together in peace, and the glory of God would cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. The prophets weren’t talking about us going to heaven when we die (as



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important as that is). Rather, they were talking about a time when God would make the earth a perfect reflection of heaven once again.

God's perfect rule isn't fully here yet. But the long story of the Bible ends in a great victory with God bringing full justice to the earth. In Romans 8, the apostle Paul tells us that creation is groaning, waiting to be freed from corruption and decay. Creation itself knows that this world is in pain. Creation, however, will sing for joy when justice reigns in the earth again.

King David wrote many of his Psalms about the day when God makes everything right again. And the hope for a future New Heavens and New Earth is how the Old Testament ends.

Jesus announces in the New Testament that God is beginning to fulfill His promise to make the earth right again. Jesus claims that through Him, God was at work to deal with sin and evil and defeat death so that the world would become all that He originally wanted it to be. Jesus claims that the life of the future age – the New Heavens and New Earth – was arriving in the present through Him.

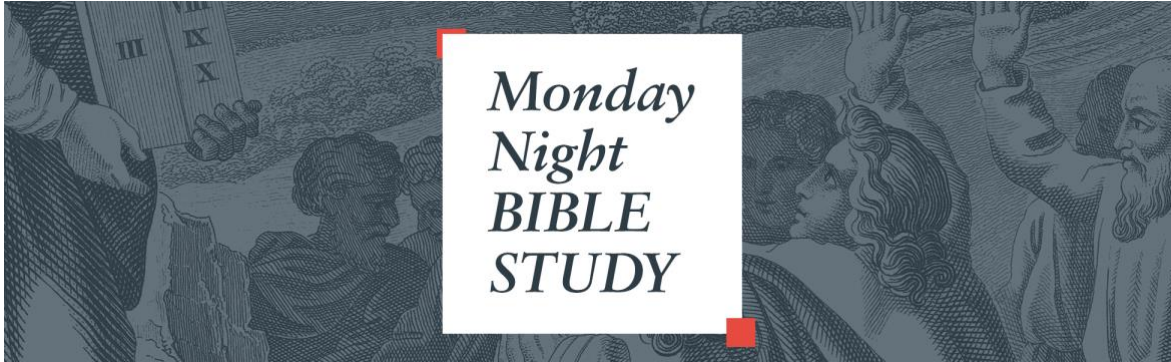
Through Jesus, people were experiencing a foretaste of what it will be like in the future when evil is permanently removed and death is defeated. Everything Jesus said, and every miracle He performed, drove home this point.

Not only was Jesus making things right in the lives of people, He said that those who follow Him will do the same. This idea of working to set things right in the lives of others is the calling of the church. We are called and equipped to set things right in the lives of others just like Jesus did. And when we set things right in the lives of others, it is a sign, a foretaste, of what is to come – the future New Heavens and New Earth.

We are the people of the future, living in the present, showing signs of the future.

Will there be any hate, gossip, lying, or slander when sin and death are removed in the New Heavens and New Earth? No, of course not. Because we are the people of the future living in the present, there should be none of those things going on now in the church.

The reason why we do good to others is more than just a simple "because that's what God wants to do". No, when we walk in love it is a powerful sign that God has defeated evil through the death



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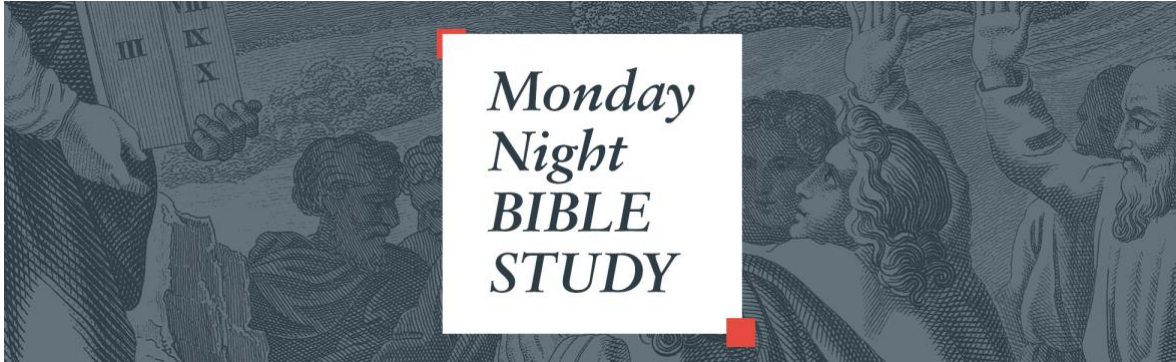
and resurrection of Jesus, and that one day, He'll remove all evil from the earth. We are giving the world the hope of a glorious future through our acts of love and kindness.

When we live out our calling to rule over the earth through acts of the love and kindness, when we show signs of the future age to come, the Bible says this is the highest form of worship we can give God. Human beings working in God's world the way He intended from the beginning is true worship.

Psalms 19:1-6 says that the heavens declare the glory of God. The skies proclaim His work. Every second of the day they speak, but no sound is heard from them – and yet their voice goes out into the whole world. Not only this, but many other passages of scripture talk about mountains clapping, the moon and stars shouting, rivers and seas rejoicing, all of creation shouting praises to God, yet doing so in complete silence. How can this be? Isn't worship singing and maybe raising our hands? Well, it can be, but there are other ways to worship God.

When the sun does what the sun was meant to do, it is a worship to God. Like in the passage we just read it says, "The sun rises at one end of the sky makes its way to the other side, giving warmth to everything in the earth." In other words, when the sun simply does what it was called to do, giving warmth, providing light, causing plants to grow, it is worshipping God. When anything in creation is fulfilling what it is called to do, it is a worship to God. Even though it isn't using words, it is worshipping God by fulfilling its purpose.

When we do what God has called us to do, it is a worship to Him. Our calling is to bring order to the world, to help set things right. When we do this, a worship goes up to God. Even though we're not singing, we are worshipping Him when we fulfill our calling. It's amazing to think that when we do things that make the earth reflect a little more of heaven, it is a worship to God.



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