

# Can we be Worthy?

Absolutely Yes!

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Today we are going to look at the question of can we be worthy. If so, worthy of what and how do we qualify to be worthy of it? There are some today who look at any mention of being worthy as a detrimental concept to brethren who have a problem with low esteem. They believe that the subject should never be brought up for fear it may impact them in a way that they just give up trying. Is that biblical rational thinking? Why? Because we have many specific commands and lessons in scripture which teach us differently. We are to speak the full gospel of the good news of the Kingdom Of God and the Plan of Salvation to everyone in spite of circumstances. This time line we have been called in during the Plan of Salvation, the building of the Family of God, is absolutely awesome as to our potential functions in it. Everyone called by the Father in this time line is very special to Him and has His confidence that they/you/me are capable of filling the function in His household as an eternal helpmate to His Son. On the other hand there are some who preach that to be “worthy” one must belong to their organization and be obedient to their means and methods and dictates. Is that biblical rational thinking? Absolutely not! That is the same type of thinking that Satan the devil most assuredly used on the angels he convinced to align with him rather than God.

I do believe after we look into this doctrine of the Father as it pertains to the members of the body of Christ, that we will all have a much clearer focus as to the part we personally play in any understanding of **“being worthy”** from the patterns established in the word of God. Those patterns of scriptures will teach us in depth not only about being worthy, and being worthy of what, but also about **“being unworthy”** as well. Every single human being who has been called by the Father Himself, to qualify to be an eternal helpmate to His Son has received the vote of confidence that Father God has seen something in us that He can enhance through His Sons sacrifice which will allow us to work hard and master one of the many functions required of a mom in the household of God the Father. He has led us by His spirit and it has been imparted to all who have been baptized into His Sons Name, after repentance of the part we have played prior to that, in sin, which required His sacrifice on our behalf. If we pick up that calling, that personal invitation from the Father, we can then start to grow in His favor and acceptance or the grace He has made available to us. If we follow that spiritual lead unto a commitment to our Savior, Jesus the Christ, we will be granted additional favor and acceptance from Christ so that we are in a state of favor and acceptance on top of favor and acceptance, or as most Bibles

translate it grace upon grace. At that point in our process we also can then grow in the knowledge that Christ has to share with us to perform the functions we are called to.

Let's start a baseline for this study with understanding what the Greek words used for worthy and unworthy are and the contexts they are used in. That way we can't be misled by another's definition of these words used out of context to promote either of the situations I mentioned above in opening, which in two words can be summed up as timidity and exclusivism. Neither is looked upon favorably by the Father or the Son.

Vines tells us the Greek word axios #514 is at the core of the Greek translation to English of worthy or worthily. It can be used as an adjective or as a verb axioo #515 or as an adverb axios #516.

Axios #514 "of weight, worth, worthy, **is said of persons and their deeds**: (a) in a good sense, eg., Matt 10:10, 11, 13 (twice), 37 (twice), 38; 22:8; Luke 7:4; 10:7; 15:19, 21; John 1:27; Acts 13:25; 1 Tim 5:18; 6:1; Heb 11:38; Rev 3:4; 4:11; 5:2, 4, 9, 12; (b) in a bad sense, Luke 12:48; 23:15; Acts 23:29; 25:11, 25; 26:31; Rom 1:32; Rev 16:6."

Under **reward** Vines states. "In Luke 23:41, axios; worthy, befitting, used in the plural, is **rendered the due reward**, literally, things worthy."

Strong's says of Axios #514; "Probably from 71: deserving, comparable or suitable (as if drawing praise); due reward, meet, [un]worthy."

We also find axios being used in forming the adverb anaxios #371 and as an adjective #370 which translates as unworthily and unworthy.

Anaxios #370 used as an adjective, "a, negative; n, euphonic, and axios; worthy is used in 1 Cor 6:2. In modern Greek it signifies incapable. Note: In Acts 13:46, unworthy represents axios, preceded by the negative ouk."

Anaxios #371 used as an adverb "is used in 1 Cor 11:27 of partaking of the Lords Supper unworthily, ie, treating it as a common meal, the bread and cup as common things, not apprehending their solemn symbolic import." (Is this talking about the meal? We will see shortly that it is not in its primary lesson.)

Strong's tells us #370 anaxios means "unfit".

So where does this leave us? It leaves us with a very clear understanding grammatically speaking, of a word which has been inspired of God to be used over and over again in a pattern of scriptures and contexts which are not to be watered down so that we "don't hurt someone's feelings" or any such rubbish. It is not to be used either as a whip to punish others and flog

them into following the leader of an organization of men. The word of God is a two edged sword and it needs to be used and understood by a spiritually mature mind, not one diseased with dominion over another, or one diseased with the touchy, feely, mindset of today's psychological therapists who in reality are "de-nablers and apologists" of people who are too timid and too cowardly to face reality regardless of the excuse. If you have the spirit of God dwelling in you and are prone to these excuses please shake them off.

It is a very unfortunate thing that there are some that use the concept of "worthy" to provoke brethren to look down their noses at others. Just as it is unfortunate that some flee from its use because some may feel they are incapable of ever being worthy of anything. Neither of these actions or lines of thinking are acceptable when dealing with this very import teaching and understanding (application) of what Christ is instructing us, as His body, when it comes to what He (and thus our Father) declare is worthy and what is not. I stress the point "what" and not "who." It is my sincere belief that we, of ourselves, can't be worthy of **some** very important parts of the plan of salvation such as the sacrifice of Christ. In this simple study however, we will see how **we can become "worthy"** of some functions in the plan and how this is made possible. So if you are one who is of "low esteem" be encouraged for you have the hope which is in Christ to carry that which you can't seemingly do on your own to fruition, because there is not one of us who can become worthy on our own efforts. But!!! We must all the same make a very sincere effort to do so individually, **and boldly in fact**. I think many will be surprised just how simple God has made the process, and yes it is a process available to every person called of the Father unto His Son. We do not need any man or any organization of men to make it possible, for that is an impossibility. We must be awake and mature to this and not willing to remain babes in Christ when it comes to applying such doctrines in our walk with our Savior. As Hebrews 5 tells us babes is not depicted as those of low esteem. Read verses 11-14. It is expected of us all to become of full age, mature, who have been gifted the holy spirit and the gifts of Christ individually to grow in favor, acceptance, and knowledge and then to put it to use. Do not let any man declare you unworthy for that is a judgment of condemnation that only God can give. He does not use unrighteous judgment in doing so as we will all see from His word. However this does not relieve us from the requirement for judging in our lives and in our walk with Christ. In fact we are commanded to do so.

Let's look at two very simple applications of these words to show the wide range that God uses them in to instruct us in "unworthy."

1 Corinthians 6:2-3; "Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you **unworthy** (#370 unfit) to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we will judge angels! How much more, things pertaining to this life."

There is nothing hard to understand here, nothing controversial in its application. Paul is telling us that at a future time we will judge the world and angels. Have you ever wondered why? A very important study but not at this time. So if we are to judge angels at a future time should we not be able to use our judgment in simple matters? The context here is a dispute between brethren as to worldly things. This is not talking about disputes of doctrines, or breaking commandments, or heresies, or anything of that nature. We are told here that God expects us to be capable of judging in small matters as well as in big. This is a very basic lesson from our Father of what He expects of us. In verse 5 Paul says it is shameful not to meet this expectation of Father God and of His Son, as do other scriptures bear out also, that is where unworthy comes in, for judging is a requirement in our growth. We can be assured that if the Father expects us to meet a certain expectation He will have provided us a means and method of doing so, for He loves us dearly and wants to see us all succeed in our calling. That basic strength comes in the form of His holy spirit working in us so we can leave all the excuses at the door, of which false humility is a leading candidate as well as deluded and deceptive teachings. Just think, the prince of the power of the air, the father of lies, does not want you to understand such things. Why? Because we are going to judge the beings of his kingdom, both of them; the world and the angels. If we are called of God we are given an enhanced ability to function as God deems fit. Thus we can become worthy (or fit) to function as judges in this particular case we are addressing, and much more. It is a process, but if we let, **low esteem, false humility, or timidity** cripple the spirit of God working in us, then we are subject to falling from the favor and acceptance the Father has granted us. Let's apply this character trait prior to your calling to a purpose of God such as judging. Just think if you have been timid in life what a tremendously valuable perspective you can bring to a judgment after your calling, after you have received the enhancing gift of God to your abilities and awareness. You are thus unique in such things. Remember we are to confound the mighty. Timid does not confound the mighty does it. You will have a background of experiences which can be used to help millions of other human beings who are just like you were.

Now let's look at a very extreme use of the word.

Acts 13:46; "Then Paul and Barnabas **grew bold** and said, It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, **and judge yourselves unworthy (#3756 and #514) of everlasting life**, behold, we turn to the Gentiles." (We must never make a similar mistake as these folks did. We must never be deceived into judging ourselves unworthy or capable of being worthy.)

Who were they talking to? The Jews at Antioch. Was Paul worried about their hurt feelings? No absolutely not! Was he looking down his nose at them? No absolutely not! Paul and Barnabas were clearly and simply articulating a fact, as to the Jews behavior. By their actions, (that is the

Jews at Antioch), **they were judging themselves as unworthy or unfit to receive everlasting life.** That means there must be a set of rules that Paul and Barnabus used to make such a bold statement. To arrive at this conclusion they simply compared the actions of the Antioch Jews with these rules and made a judgment of their own based on them. This is very important to come to grips with. Actions and behaviors are criteria to be used in making judgments as to being worthy or unworthy to receive everlasting life let alone an opportunity to be the bride in the Fathers household. That is a simple fact. It is not something that is to be used as a hammer or as a justification for sloppy behavior for every single one of us is sloppy at times in our calling which is another simple fact. Becoming worthy is something we in the body are commanded to do so that the body can be edified and come to the fullness and the stature of Christ. However, there is to be no dominion or vanity in it.

So here in the two representative uses we have looked at of God using the word **unworthy**, we can see it has a common theme of use. **The Author of creation uses it to instruct us that we can actually function in an unworthy manner in His eyes when it comes to things which are expected of us.** He has not set a bar so high that we can't jump over it, He has promised us that, so why would anyone be discouraged to the point they declare themselves unworthy (or unfit) of something expected of us by our ever merciful and loving Creator? When we are called of the Father and given His spirit we are empowered beyond what our past abilities were. When digesting teaching examples such as 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 there are some who say they do not want to judge another for God tells me not to. What a delusionary mindset that is for that scripture and context are not asking us to judge another but rather to make a judgment between two brethren as to a worldly dispute. That is not judging another! It is judging a matter, a thing! So I say to them drop the false humility and move on to the reality of the scriptures and to the truth of the matter as to what is expected of us which is clearly in our power and ability to do. We are not to adopt the convenient "Simple Simon met the pie man on the way to the fair" mindset. Just think brethren, God the Father has called us. He would not do that if He thought we could not fulfill our part in that calling. But let's not be naive when it comes to judging people. We have done, and do that often in our life for very simple reasons and for very severe reasons. **Unfortunately the apologist religious leaders have convinced many that judging people equates to condemning people. On the contrary we judge people by their actions, not to condemn them, but to assist if we can in the case of a brother or sister who is not aware of their actions, or for the very simple and basic reason of our own survival at times.** The bible is loaded with these lessons but once again that is for another study.

Now let's follow the negative sense of the word a bit prior to our looking into its positive uses as to our behavior in Christ.

Luke 12:47-48, “And that servant who knew his masters will, **and did not prepare himself or do accordingly to his will**, (two scenarios, with one being bad enough) shall be beaten by many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things **worthy** of stripes, shall be beaten with few. (What incredible insight into how we are to judge in a matter. Both are guilty but one will receive more punishment than another. Why? Because of the level or degree of knowledge in each case! **What was the critical criteria being used as the basis for this particular judgment? Knowing the masters will and preparing oneself.** Please do not lose sight of this when it comes to being worthy.) For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to who much has been committed, of him they (the Father and the Son) will ask the more.” (What a compliment of growth from the Father and the Son. They actually have confidence the individual can do more.)

Once again brethren, there is no misunderstanding what is said here. We have often stressed how our Creator is “just” and not “fair.” As such it is obvious from scripture that we have things that are required of us. There will be no excuse for shirking those responsibilities. God will not dismiss such conduct even if we plead ignorance. Guilty is guilty. But if the ignorance is genuine He will apply a greater degree of mercy in assigning a punishment or in most cases better stated; correction. Now let’s continue this with an example of man’s application of it.

Luke 23:13-15, “Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, You have brought this man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing **worthy** of death has been done by Him.” (Yet they murdered Him. No righteousness in this judgment of men. They even broke their own laws.)

This simple use of the word axios/worthy, can be clearly understood in these simple terms of its usage. Let’s look at it being used in the same manner and terms in regard to Paul.

Acts 23:29, “I found out that he was accused concerning questions of their law, but had nothing charged against him **worthy** (axios) of death or chains.”

Acts 25:11, “For if I am an offender, or have committed anything **worthy** of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar.”

Verse 25, “But when I found that he had committed nothing **worthy** of death, and that he himself had appealed to Augustus, I decided to send him.”

Acts 26:31, “and when they had gone aside, they talked among themselves, saying, this man is doing nothing **worthy** of death or chains.”

Now in a much more broader sense as to all in creation.

Romans 1:32, “who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are **worthy** of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

What things? 29-31, “being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful.”

Just think, these 22 very specific actions of men are **worthy** of death according to God. He has declared a sentence of condemnation for their unrepentant actions. Please notice the broad spectrum they encompass. Even to the point that if we give our approval of such behavior! To do so we become worthy of death. The fuzzy feely types will be screaming at the top of their lungs at me, that I am reading this all wrong, and that I am not fair, not godly, not Christian, to say and present such things when discussing being worthy in Gods eyes. The simple fact here is these are Gods words and insightful instruction to us. Remember guilty is guilty. However, the application of the punishment is up to God. We need to be able to judge for ourselves and rely on another to tell us otherwise. We need to flee from the aforementioned activities if there is an un-repentive attitude towards them.

Revelation 16:6, “For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are **worthy** (or as the margin states; deserve it).”

Notice bad behavior and thinking in unrighteous ways, equates to being unworthy in Gods eyes. There should be no doubt in our minds as to the bad or negative uses of the word axios as applied by God regardless of what men think. We as the children of God the Father and co-heirs with Christ, need to heed the Creators instructions and not supplant them with mankind’s twisted and deceived explanations, rebuttals, and machinations of the mind. We know who the author of this kind of thinking is, and he plants it in their minds. Let’s keep following this along to get another very specific unworthy behavior we can get involved in as to the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:27-30. “Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord **unworthily** will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man **examine** (a form of judging through investigation) **himself** (not the bread and the wine), and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lords body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep (are dead).”

There is no light side to this brethren! **We can be taking the Passover in an unworthy state.** Whether done in ignorance or not it can have a very bad result; weak, sick, and dead. That is very sobering to me and this instruction should not be watered down in any way, shape, or form. It needs to be kept in a complete and total perspective, for us all to keep on our toes one might say. Is this talking about the manner or sequences in which we are to actually eat the bread and drink the wine or the location of such or anything like that as important as they may be? No! It is primarily talking about how each and every one of us approaches the taking of the Passover. Remember Luke 12 which we read earlier; “And that servant, who knew his masters will, **and did not prepare himself or do according to his will**, shall be beaten by many stripes.” That is why verse 28 instructs us all to examine (#1381 dokimazo; test to approve from #1384 acceptable) ourselves before eating and drinking the Passover symbols. It is talking about having a repentant and humble attitude towards our Lord Jesus Christ and His incredible sacrifice which we can never be worthy of Him doing for us. (Remember, He certainly was not doing it for Himself.) If we could, there would have been no need for a sacrifice on our behalf. Our part in the equation is to simply prepare ourselves mentally to be a recipient of it. Repentance is the key to that preparation for we have sinned during the time frame from the last taking of the Passover. It is not anything to do with self-flagellation as many of the world’s religions practice and some “churches of God.” Paul leaves no doubt as to how God is using the term unworthy or unworthily here, when we read verses 31-32.

“For if we would judge (examine) ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged (by God) we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.”

Rev 3:19, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”

All of this should be simple for us to comprehend. In addressing this example of unworthy I am not pointing the finger at anyone. The manner and contexts in which God uses the words translated as unworthy and worthy with the root axios are to be taken very seriously by each and every one of us. There is a right way to be walking in the way of God through Christ, and an obvious wrong way. Unfortunately many today abuse this instruction to justify watered down behavior or use it to elevate themselves beyond others. Both are very, very, wrong and can result in many being sick, naked, hungry, thirsty, estranged, widowed, orphaned, imprisoned, and dead. These are brethren who were called of God the Father unto His son, Jesus the Christ.

Now let’s get the full measure of the meaning of axios/worthy from God as He teaches us the incredible and merciful applications of it as to our being worthy. We will follow it through many scriptures and varying contexts but as you will see it all boils down to the same underlying premise which is important to God in our being worthy before Him, which we will see is clearly and simply established as a fact of our calling, after we have reviewed all these scriptures in their contexts. Let’s start in the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew. The theme of being worthy is



addressed here often and please keep in mind the surrounding activities and behaviors which bring about its being stated. These scriptures are in context with the 12 being sent out by Christ to cities He was about to come to.

Matthew 10:10-11; “nor bag of money for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is **worthy** of his food. Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is **worthy**: and stay there until you go out.” Now how do you think others would know who is worthy? Very important because it is linked to behavior, thus clearly visible works.

Verse 13; “If the household is **worthy**, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not **worthy**, let your peace return to you.”

Verses 37-38; “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take up his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.” The de-nabbling teacher would say “o, how harsh this is! How anti-family this is.”

It is very, very, obvious that Gods instructions on being or not being worthy are intricately tied to what we do. It is based upon what we do and don't do. We have seen that through the scriptures we have read today. It is a steadfast pattern throughout the scriptures which we have all often read over and over. Now let's tie this simple and clear instruction into the selecting of the bride of Christ. The context of Matthew chapter 22 is not something that can be disputed by a rational mind, with or without the spirit of God. We know it as a history or chronology of events in the selecting of the bride over the span of two covenants, and those who were used to facilitate it happening. It focuses on who is worthy and who is not, in no uncertain terms.

Matthew 22:8; “Then he said to his servants, the wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not **worthy**.” This context is wrapped up in verse 14 with, “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Not a very flattering thing for those who were not worthy (or fit) after being invited to the wedding.

Luke 7:4; “And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was **worthy**.” Now why was he worthy? What criteria did they use to determine his worthiness? Verse 5; “for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.” Clearly it was predicated on what he did. The pattern continues.

Luke 10:7 in regard to the 70 being sent out. “And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is **worthy** of his wages. Do not go from house to house.” (What were the tasks they were given to perform?)

Luke 15:19, which is the context of the lost son. “And I am no longer **worthy** to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.” Verse 21; “And the son said to him, father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer **worthy** to be called your son.” Once again the idea of worthy is predicated and based upon ones actions which we were told here were sinful. Once again very important! Remember the 22 activities and behaviors we read earlier from Romans the first chapter? They all deserved death by Gods standards but if we were to evaluate them by man’s justice system they would not have been. Some would not even qualify to be judged by the judicial system of man for they are accepted norms.

Now a myriad of applications.

John 1:27; “It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal straps I am not **worthy** to loose.” We can read the same understanding in Acts 13:25.

1 Timothy 5:18; “For the scripture says, you shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain, and, the laborer is **worthy** of his wages.”

Chapter 6:1; “Let as many servants as are under yoke count their own masters **worthy** of all honor, so that the name of God and doctrine may not be blasphemed.”

Hebrews 11:38; “of whom the world was not **worthy**. They wandered in deserts and mountains, dens and caves of the earth.”

Revelation 3:4; “You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are **worthy**.”

4:11; “You are **worthy**, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for you created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”

5:2; “Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, who is **worthy** to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” Verse 4; “So I wept much, because no one was found **worthy** to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.” Verse 9; “And they sang a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed them to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” Verse 12; “saying with a loud voice: **worthy** is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

Now to solidify our base of understanding, and use by God of the term worthy, let's look at it when it is used as a verb (axioo #515). Please take in the entire context we are about to read in 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12. It is very instructive in many ways.

“Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church (called out ones) of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; grace (favor and acceptance) to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting because your faith grows exceedingly (How do they know that? By witnessing their works!) and the love (outgoing concern) of every one of you all abounds towards each other (seen in their works or outward expression of it towards one another), so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches (others who are called) of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, (Why is that so special? Because when confronted by persecutions and tribulations, many would and have fallen away, taken the opposite direction that the Thessalonians chose. It is at those times of endurance that our faith and patience are forged and tempered in the furnace. It is also at those times that the love of many waxes cold), which is manifest (or very plain to see) evidence of the righteous judgment of God, (which they were clearly being observed as to doing in their decisions and behaviors) **that you may be counted worthy** (#2661 kataxioo from #2696 and #515; to deem entirely deserving-accounted worthy) of the Kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with affliction those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting (complete) destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints to be admired among all those who believe (and have believed) because our testimony among you was believed. Therefore we pray always for you that our God would count you **worthy** (#515) of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him (at one with Him), according to the grace (favor and acceptance) of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (As a side note, we have here a clear example of the doctrine of being one).”

Brethren, this is a pattern found throughout the scriptures of God. It is steadfast and true. We can be accounted worthy of the Kingdom of God and eternal inheritance how? By evidence given, and clearly seen in our actions! What evidence is that? It is predicated on the righteous decisions we make and follow through on in our calling, but even more so when we are under duress during trials, tribulations, and persecutions.

Remember Romans 8:16-18; “The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (the Father) and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not **worthy** to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

It is important that we recognize in this pattern, as well as many others, that there are three principle characters involved: God the Father, our Lord Jesus Christ and the Saints, the called out ones. The pattern of being worthy is intricately tied to what we do in that calling and relationship. It is also intricately tied to receiving the promise of the Kingdom of God and eternal life and the inheritance in the family of God that our husband Jesus the Christ is willing to share with us. It is the most colossal and epic work to ever take place in the plan of salvation for the plans continuance is based upon our success in being the bride. Without that happening there would not be a continuance of the family or the current plan for that matter. It takes all three entities functioning as one to bring this stage of the plan to fruition. The Patriarch Father; the Savior Son/Husband; and the bride (composed of the Saints who have qualified to be accounted worthy to be the bride) in the household of God. This is a simple pattern as expressed throughout creation. But the actual inner workings are not that simple for to make this part of the plan successful it will take many being called to find the few who will be able to function as a bride of great value. And once again that is not a slight to anyone for God Himself says “many daughters have done well but you excel them all.” (So is this an “out” for folks?) The humility and dedication to the actions required of the wife in Gods household are clearly and boldly spelled out in Proverbs 31:10-31. We need to do our best in fulfilling them **and then our Husband will complete in us what we lack. We need to have an understanding of them all, but definitely master one. Pick one that you have a working knowledge of and really focus on that assisting in the body of Christ.** It takes commitment, sacrifice, and focus on our part, not just lip service or warming a seat somewhere on the Sabbath. We must remember it is a way of life to be adhered to while we are still in the flesh and while we are still subject to Satan’s continual attacks in this very evil world. Just look at the Father and the Sons commitment. They have been companions throughout eternity. With some of the angels sinning under Satan’s burden of deceit and persuasion They had to make a change in Their plans. The Being, called the Word and whom we know as Jesus Christ, who came to reveal the Father, the Patriarch of the plan, had to divest Himself of all His glory (John 17:5 and Philipians 2:5-9) and become a human being subject to death. If we want to talk about commitment that is it! Ours is very easy compared to that. Just think He was going from eternal, to being subject to death. We are going from being subject to death, to eternal. No comparison or question as to what is the best situation. All we have to do is be obedient to the household rules and conduct our lives within and without the body of Christ in a way that shows evidence to God that we in fact can be trusted with the functions of a wife in the household of God. This is not a light thing humanly speaking, but our Husband tells us to be yoked with Him so He in fact can lighten that load for

us. That means we will need to walk beside Him. Unfortunately today there are some who think they come before Him based on their actions. If we do make the cut we will have displayed clear evidence of our desire to act as the mother, bride, wife, and eternal helpmate. That pattern is undeniable in creation as to what God expects, and is summed up in the brides resume as mentioned previously in Proverbs 31:10-31. The history of the calling of the bride is detailed in Matthew 22:1-14 which we have reviewed often. In speaking of that incredible event Revelation 19:7-8 tells us, "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and **His wife has made herself ready**. And to her **it was granted** to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, **for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.**" (She is deeply involved personally in the process. If you wish to know what righteous acts are pleasing read Proverbs 31:10-31 over and over again and work on one aspect at a time so they won't seem too insurmountable, one step at a time. Patience and perseverance are keys to being successful.) We have just read about righteous acts being rewarded in 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12. There are those in the body who actually scoff at such things. They throw up phony road blocks such as you can't "earn" salvation and then stymie the growth of many. I call these deceivers **de-nablers** thus not enabling the brethren to grow toward the potential expected of them. **We are not trying to earn salvation, but rather earn or qualify for a specific function in the family of God in this time line of the plan of salvation.** Deception is very tricky! Can you be wrong if you are right? Oh yes you can! How, one might ask? Simply by applying a true statement completely out of context. That is what the deceived and those being deceived do on a daily basis. You see, they scream out salvation is not obtained by works but it is a free gift. That is true, for not one single human being is worthy of our Creator having to have divested Himself of all His glory and then undergoing a lot of suffering in the flesh, and then being murdered. Not one of us! His sacrifice is totally and completely a free gift on His part. Through that, eternal life can be offered "**on paper**" to every human being. "Can be offered" is the key here. God wants every human being to receive it, but They will never allow for the creation of another Satan, thus the caveat of an "opportunity" not "a given; or sure thing." To get the free gift we need to keep the household rules as best we can in sincerity and truth, for that is the totality of the love of God in all things. "If we don't we won't," should be a simple slogan in the forefront of our minds. Salvation is a free gift from God, but will not be given freely to everyone. We have our part to play in becoming worthy of the gift of salvation. To think differently is to be deceived.

Matthew 19:16-17; "Now behold, one came and said to Him, good teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life? So He said to him, why do you call Me good? No one is good but one, God (all glory given to the Father by Christ for He was human at the time He said this). **But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.**" (Which is the expression of the love of God.)

Brethren, please do not let anyone steal your crown. The simplicity of the plan is found throughout the scriptures in the patterns left for us to follow and build upon in our lives. When we are called by the Father unto His Son we are given the ability to understand them in their simplicity. To one not having the spirit of God they are folly and childish. Yes we have works to do on our behalf to manifest that we get it, and are willing to stick with it through thick and thin or in scriptural language through trials, tribulations, and persecutions. These works consist of all the fruit of the spirit and more. Patience and faith are just two that we have just read about in Thessalonians, which are evidentiary towards this goal. They are displayed, and not just in our hearts. Remember; “growing exceedingly in faith and the love of the brethren.” These are not manifested simply in words, for faith without works is dead. They must be displayed in our righteous outward actions in life. The scriptures have clearly told us that is how God judges us worthy (or fit) of the kingdom and His family. It takes a combination of the faith of Jesus and righteous works! If we can hold firm to the wonderful fruit of the spirit even when we are suffering then we will be accounted worthy of Christ’s free gift which is reserved for all who are willing to live a righteous life in Him. We are only limited by our own fleshly desires and the constant barrage from Satan, the prince of the power of the air. We can only get so far ourselves and then Christ will assist in the rest. Many scriptures address this but let’s just review one such account. We all know this section of scripture well and have used it often in our studies so let’s just read through it.

Ephesians 5:22-27; “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church (called out ones); and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so the wives to their **own** husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church (very specific here) and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself, a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

What an awesome calling we have at this time in the plan of salvation. It isn’t just about the gift of salvation is it! We are called by the Father to qualify to be the bride, eternal helpmate of His Son, Jesus the Christ. That is so far beyond the free gift of salvation which will be offered to all of mankind willing to be obedient and believing God at a future date. Now please do not let that go to our heads for we are also told that it will take Christ to finish the good work which was started in us. 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 is just a refresher in that.

“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble (are called at this time). But God (the Father) has chosen the foolish things (us) of this world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the

things which are despised, God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, that as it is written, he who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

The work which has been started in us at our calling will be finished in us by our Lord Jesus Christ. No room for false humility or braggadocios behavior. But, He will only finish it and account us worthy to be presented to Himself as His bride if we endure and persevere in keeping the household rules through thick and thin. The Father and the Son know we can't do it on our own. Just like Christ in the flesh could not have done it without His Father. Our part is to give Them the evidence They are looking for; so They will proceed with finishing the work They started in us as They see our righteous acts directed towards Them and toward the other members of the body. These righteous acts are indicative of the judgments we hold true to, and the commitment we have made to our Father, and our Husband Jesus. We need to do our part in this limited physical existence. Need further proof of this?

Colossians 1:9-14; “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Why?); that you may have a walk **worthy** (#516 axios the adverb of #514) of the Lord, **fully pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power**, (that's right! We can't do it just by ourselves, we do our very best and He will finish what we can't, so do not let anyone discourage you, man or demon) **for all patience and longsuffering with joy**; giving thanks to the Father **who has qualified us** to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness (deceits of Satan) and translated (or simply put: transformed) us unto the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

What incredible simple truths when these understandings are opened to us by the spirit of God, which we have received to strengthen us in our walk, our quest, our qualifying, to be the bride, eternal helpmate, of Christ. To have accomplished that goal we will have had to have displayed consistent, **not flawless**, righteous behavior before God and men especially during times of duress. It is at those times that we are most vulnerable to failure. They are often surrounded by the fiery darts of Satan and his minions, and our own lusts and deceit. If we stumble we need to get back up and catch our balance and get orientated along the path again. We need to show our Father and Brother that we trust in them and no others. We know we can't do it on our own but believe Them, that They will finish it in us. Never give up, try and try again.

So brethren, there is no misunderstanding how God uses the word worthy to encourage us and instruct us in the way we should go. But to round off our understanding let's see the verb axioo

#515 used in a negative way in a very sobering context found in Hebrews 10: 26-29. “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for us, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worst punishment do you suppose, will he be thought **worthy** (#515) who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counting the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the spirit of grace?”

This is talking about someone who has gone to the ultimate extreme of being unworthy who clearly known the truth of the scriptures, and who has received the spirit of God, who then willingly turns his back on that calling and becomes an enemy of Christ and God the Father. I personally do not believe many will choose that way as we have often stated in past studies. We must all grow and work hard in our own growth so we can assist others from actually falling away, just as a loving, dedicated, mom would do.

When looking into the doctrine of being worthy we have a lot of examples in scripture which stress what is required of us, we have just touched upon them here. We are to use the gift of the spirit to assist us in growing in the grace (favor and acceptance) and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Simply put, that means the gifts and the ability to use them to develop a character which is pleasing to God. That growth; in favor and acceptance and knowledge, is manifested or evidenced in our righteous acts and judgments in life, every one of them, from the simple to the complex. At this time the Son is looking to choose a virtuous helpmate for eternity from among those called by the Father. To be accounted worthy of that function is a very special privilege in the plan of Salvation. It is not an easy process as scriptures instruct us. But it is not impossible either as they clearly instruct us as well. It however is one of suffering with Christ and that is inclusive of His body as well. **If we manage to be consistent in our efforts, that will get Christ’s attention, and He will assist us further in working and growing in His favor and acceptance and knowledge.** So yes we can be accounted worthy brethren. Do not let and denabler or apologist convince you otherwise. What a wonderful and awesome Creator we have guiding and loving us.

Our peace we give to you.

Brian and Linda



