

“What we know about God and what we do for God have a way of getting broken apart in our lives. The moment the organic unity of belief and behavior is damaged in any way, we are incapable of living out the full humanity for which we were created.” Peterson, Practicing Resurrection, 30

Paul's Middle Letters

- Series: Mastering the Scriptures
- Location: Paul's Middle Letters
- This week and next: connection between what we *believe* and what we *do*



What's It
All About?

SOLA FIDE





WHAT
ABOUT
WORKS?

Ep 4.1: “I, the prisoner of the Lord,
appeal to you to walk worthily of the
calling to which you were called.”

(tra. C. H. Arnold)

Discuss

- Should we even be talking about works? Why or why not? Justify your answer!
- How has the “Reformed hangover” affected you personally, your church experience, or your response to faith?
- Based on Ep 4.1, what is the proper relationship between faith and works?
- How can we live that without falling victim to the Reformed hangover, or establishing a works-based faith?



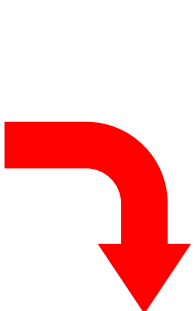


Chs. 1-3: unfold progressively how the new life in the gospel means belonging to a new humanity—God’s covenant people, the church, through whom God’s wisdom is made manifest

Doctrinal? 

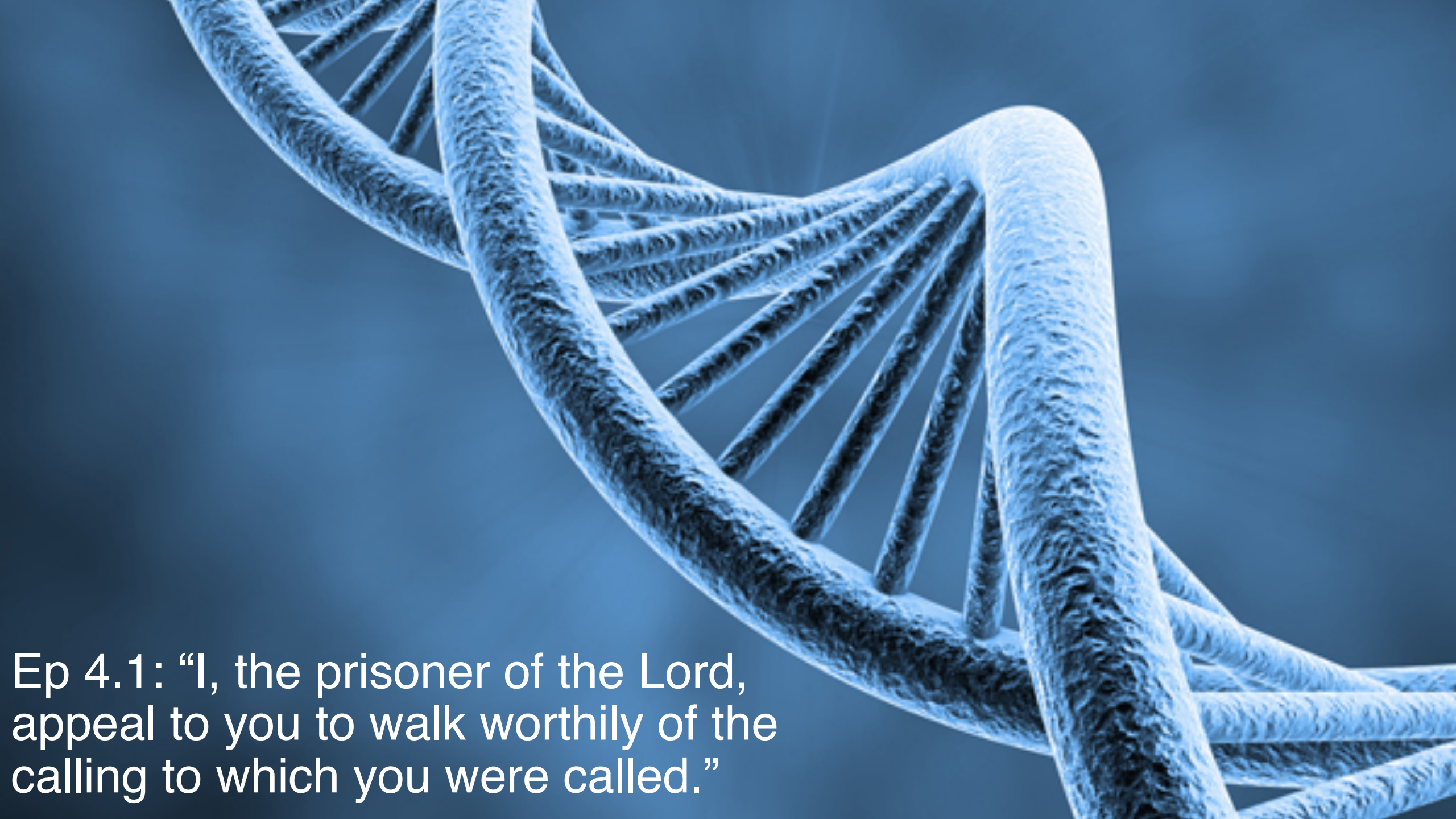


Ep 4.1: “I, the prisoner of the Lord, appeal to you to walk worthily of the calling to which you were called.”

Practical? 



Chs. 4-6 unfold what it means to “walk worthily of the calling”: unity in the church, putting on the new man, ordering the household, standing against spiritual opposition



Ep 4.1: “I, the prisoner of the Lord,
appeal to you to walk worthily of the
calling to which you were called.”



Worthy

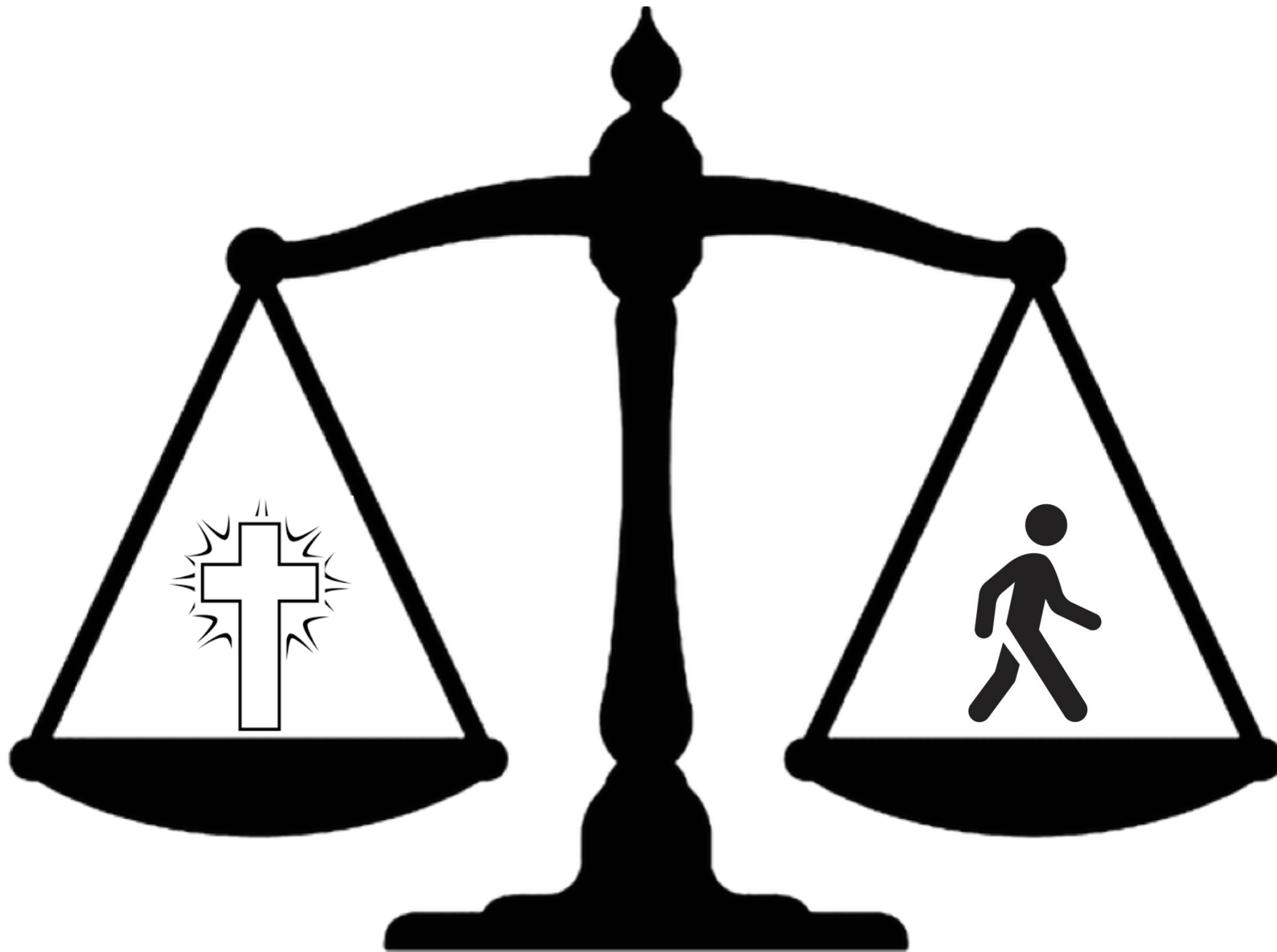
Axíōs



“When our walking and God’s calling are in balance, we are whole; we are living maturely, living responsively to God’s calling, living congruent with the way God calls us into being. *Axios*, worthy—mature, healthy, robust. ... When God’s calling and our walking fit, we are growing up in Christ. God calls; we walk.” Peterson, Practicing Resurrection, 32

Worthy

Axiōs



Indicative - imperative



Saying what is
the case



Saying what ought
to be the case

“You’re a Vanderbilt! Act like it!”

“I, the prisoner of the Lord, appeal to you to walk worthily [imperative]
of the calling to which you were called [indicative].”



“Become in your character and conduct what God’s
action in Christ has made you to be” Mott, *Ephesians*, 269b







Discuss

- How can we insist on a balanced, worthy walk without adding a works component to the gospel?
- How might we use the concept of the *walking worthily* as a shepherding tool for individuals and churches?
- What do you need most at this point in your faith—motivation or diagnosis?

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