

# *Earnest Christianity.*

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## THE HOLY CALLING.

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“For God hath not called us unto uncleanness; but unto holiness. I Thess., 4:7.

THE reference here is not to the universal call of the Gospel; but rather to that *state* to which God has called His people.

The words were addressed to the Church at Thessalonica, which was one of the purest of the early churches; and the epistle is expressly directed to those who were “in God the Father and in our Lord Jesus Christ.” These Christians are very highly spoken of by the Apostle: “We give thanks to God always for you all; making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God, . . . and ye became followers of us and of our Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy in the Holy Ghost, so that ye were examples to all that believed in Macedonia and Achaia.”

To such a people were the words applied: “God hath not called us unto uncleanness but unto holiness,”—words which repeat that high calling of God, wherein he cries “Be ye holy for I am holy,” and enforcing the same doctrine at Thessalonica which was given to the disciples at Rome: “Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”