Called by God
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:
A. There is no doubt that God called and continues to call men and women in every dispensation of this world.
   1. Gen. 6:13 - Noah
   2. Gen. 22:11 - Abraham
   3. Lev. 1:1 - Moses
   4. 1Sam. 3:4 - Samuel
   5. Jer. 1:5 - Jeremiah
   6. Rom. 1:1 - Paul
   7. 1Cor. 1:2; 2Peter 1:10 - Christians
B. The question is: How does God call humankind for the purpose of salvation?

I. GOD CALLS US BY MEANS OF THE GOSPEL
A. There are many mistaken ideas regarding how God calls us.
   1. Some advocate that God's call is direct and irresistible
   2. Others, by a special working of the Holy Spirit
   3. Still others, by a limited selection
   4. In every case apart from the Gospel, the means makes God arbitrary, unfair, and biased - Acts 10:34; Gal. 2:6; Deut. 10:17
B. The Gospel is the means of God's call according to scripture - 2Thes. 2:13-15
   1. Note the pattern in Acts 17:1-4; 1Cor. 15:1-4

II. TO WHAT ARE WE CALLED?
A. We are called to freedom - Gal. 5:13; John 8:32
   1. Not freedom from any law, but freedom from a burdensome law that could not save - Gal. 3:13-14
B. The gospel summons us out of darkness into light - 1Peter 2:9-10
C. We are called to eternal glory of the Kingdom - 1Peter 5:10; 1Thes. 2:12-13
D. We are called to fellowship with Jesus in His suffering - 1Peter 2:21, 4:13-14

III. WE HAVE THE POWER TO REJECT GOD'S CALL
A. Instructions regarding the calling
   1. Walk worthy, make it sure - Eph. 4:1-3; 2Peter 1:5-11
   2. To reject the call is to reject God - 2Tim. 1:8-10; Acts 7:51-53
   3. There is no escape if we reject God's call - Heb. 2:1-4

Lessons:
A. The call - John 6:44-45; Rev. 3:20
B. The Caller - Heb. 1:2, 12:25
C. Our answer - Acts 22:16