

# 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