

Called by God

# Called by God

- There is no doubt that God called and continues to call men and women in every dispensation of this world.
  - Gen. 6:13 - Noah - “And God said to Noah...”
  - Gen. 22:11 - Abraham - “But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, Abraham, Abraham! So he said, Here I am.”
  - Lev. 1:1 - Moses - “Now the LORD called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying”

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- 1Sam. 3:4 - Samuel - “the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, Here I am!”
- Jer. 1:5 - Jeremiah - “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”
- Rom. 1:1 - Paul - “Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God”

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- Christians
  - 1Cor. 1:2 - “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours”
  - 2Peter 1:10 - “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble”
- The question is: How does God call humankind for the purpose of salvation?

# God Calls Us By Means Of The Gospel

- There are many mistaken ideas regarding how God calls us.
  - Some advocate that God's call is direct and irresistible
  - Others, by a special working of the Holy Spirit
  - Still others, by a limited selection

# God Calls Us By Means Of The Gospel

- In every case apart from the Gospel, the means makes God arbitrary, unfair, and biased
  - Acts 10:34 - “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.”
  - Gal. 2:6 - “But from those who seemed to be something--whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man--for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me.”
  - Deut. 10:17 - “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.”

# God Calls Us By Means Of The Gospel

- The Gospel is the means of God's call, according to scripture
  - 2Thes. 2:13-15 - "But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle."

# God Calls Us By Means Of The Gospel

- Note the pattern
  - Acts 17:1-4 - “Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ. 4 And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.”

# God Calls Us By Means Of The Gospel

- Note the pattern
  - 1Cor. 15:1-4 - “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures”

# To What Are We Called?

- We are called to freedom
  - Gal. 5:13 - “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another”
  - John 8:32 - “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

# To What Are We Called?

- Not freedom from any law, but freedom from a burdensome law that could not save
  - Gal. 3:13-14 - “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

# To What Are We Called?

- The gospel summons us out of darkness into light
  - 1Peter 2:9-10 - “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

# To What Are We Called?

- We are called to eternal glory of the Kingdom
  - 1Peter 5:10 - “But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.”
  - 1Thes. 2:12-13 - “that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. 13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”

# To What Are We Called?

- We are called to fellowship with Jesus in His suffering
  - 1Peter 2:21 - “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps”
  - 1Peter 4:13-14 - “but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.”

# We Have The Power To Reject God's Call

- Walk worthy, make it sure
  - Eph. 4:1-3 - “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”
  - 2Peter 1:5-11

# We Have The Power To Reject God's Call

- To reject the call is to reject God
  - 2Tim. 1:8-10 - “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”

# We Have The Power To Reject God's Call

- To reject the call is to reject God
  - Acts 7:51-53 - “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.”

# We Have The Power To Reject God's Call

- There is no escape if we reject God's call
  - Heb. 2:1-4 - “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”

# Lessons:

- The call
  - John 6:44-45 - “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.”
  - Rev. 3:20 - “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

# Lessons:

- The Caller

- Heb. 1:2 - “has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds”
- Heb. 12:25 - “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven”

# Lessons:

- Our answer
  - Acts 22:16 - “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”