

CALLED OF GOD

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TEXT:

"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work" (2Thessalonians 2:13-17).

INTRODUCTION:

- 1) The most important call you have ever received is the call from God.
- 2) "Call" - "Kaleo" "it is used particularly of the Divine call to partake of the blessings of redemption.
- 3) How do we know when we have been called of God? Is there some mysterious feeling one receives? Is there any way to be assured?
- 4) What we will note in this lesson is that God is the Source of our calling, the Gospel is the means of our calling and the church is the result of our calling.
- 5) God has even given a name to those whom He has called.

(1) "And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26).

(2) Divine name - "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name" (Isaiah 62:2).

I. MUST BE CALLED BY SOMEONE

- 1) God - "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:" (1Corinthians 1:1-2).
- 2) God is interested in man.

(1) "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8).

(2)" O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:1-9).

3) "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (1Corinthians 1:9).

4) "Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2Thessalonians 2:14).

5) "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance" (Hebrews 9:15).

6) If God had not called us, we could not be saved.

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II. MUST BE CALLED BY SOMETHING.

1) How do we know that God has called? Feelings? Direct operation of the Holy Spirit?

2) "Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2Thessalonians 2:14).

3) "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

4) "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

5) Must hear and obey the Gospel - "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our

Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;" (2Thessalonians 1:7-9).

III. MUST BE CALLED FROM SOMETHING

1) "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" (1Peter 2:9) - out of darkness.

2) "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" (Colossians 1:13).

3) "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light." (Ephesians 5:8).

4) Before one's calling. "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:" (Ephesians 2:12).

IV. CALLED UNTO SOMETHING

1) "**into his marvelous light**": "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" (1Peter 2:9).

2) "**fellowship**": "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (1Corinthians 1:9).

3) "**kingdom and glory**": "That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory" (1Thessalonians 2:12).

4) "**in one body**": "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful" (Colossians 3:15).

5) "**unto liberty**": "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

6) "**unto holiness**": "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness" (1Thessalonians 4:7).

7) "**to peace**": "But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace" (1Corinthians 7:15).

8) "**Glory and virtue**": "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath

called us to glory and virtue:" (2Peter 1:3).

9) "***Unto his eternal glory***": "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you" (1Peter 5:10).

V. THIS CALLING IS AN HIGH CALLING

1) "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

2) "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not" (1John 3:1).

VI. WALK WORTHY OF OUR CALLING

1) "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called," (Ephesians 4:1); (ASV - "calling").

2) How? "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2-3).

3) Are we walking worthy of our calling?

CONCLUSION:

1) "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:28-31).

2) Should appreciate God's calling. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;" (Ephesians 4:4).

3) God is calling you by His Gospel - What is your answer?

(1) "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16).

(2) "Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in

Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:14-15).