

The Practicality of Redemption (7)

The Believer's Call

Introduction

A. Every person, at some time, will ask about the meaning and purpose of life. When we ask, "What is the meaning of my life?" the Bible gives us the answer -- it is found in Colossians 1:18.

... *That in all things he (the Lord Jesus) might have the preeminence.*

B. The Christian is related to this all-inclusive plan of God by what is known as "The Call of God." We recognize first of all that this refers to salvation. However, the call goes far beyond the new birth. It designates the plan of God for each of us. God has called us to live for his glory.

I. The Fact of God's Call.

A. All Christians have been called to exalt Jesus Christ.

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, that also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:28,29

Comment: The firstborn boy in a Jewish family was given a place of honor and respect. If the father would die the boy would assume the responsibility for the family. He was given a double inheritance. The purpose of God's call to the believer is that Jesus Christ might be given the place of honor and response of which He is worthy.

B. All Christians have been called to live so the Savior would be praised.

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. I Peter 2:9

Comment: God has chosen us, made us priests, united us to a holy people, and described us as His peculiar (purchased) people -- so we can live to bring praise to the Lord Jesus. This call comes to all believers and not just clergy. We are all called -- it is our commission -- or how we fulfill our call that is different.

II. The Characteristics of God's Call.

A. The call of God is inescapable.

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. Romans 11:29

Comment: Our calling and enablement are ours permanently. We may live with such selfishness that we cannot use our gifts nor fulfill our call.

B. The call of God is transforming.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of his calling Ephesians 1:18

Comment: To understand and practice our call -- transforms our life.

C. The call of God is rewarding.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do ... I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:13,14

Comment: When we live for the honor of Jesus Christ -- we shall be honored.

D. The call of God is holy, purposeful, gracious, and eternal.

Who hath 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 us in Christ Jesus before the world began. II Timothy 1:9

Comment: Here we see how important our calling is in God's plan.

III. The Demands of God's Call.

A. The Christian has been called to fellowship with God.

God is faithful, by whom ye were call unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. I Corinthians 1:9

Comment: While describing salvation the emphasis is also on our day-to-day life. We are called to "share together" with God.

B. The Christian has been called to 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

Comment: The purpose of our liberty must be maintained -- serving one another in love -- for the glory of God.

C. The Christian has been called to live a holy life.

For God has not called us unto uncleanness, but to holiness. I Thessalonians 4:7

Comment: Selfish and sensual goals in life will make it impossible to fulfill our call. Biblical holiness brings glory to God.

IV. The Promise Related to God's Call.

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. I Thessalonians 5:24

Comment: Here God pledges to give Himself -- so we may fulfill His call.

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