

The Christian and the Call of God

Introduction

A. Every person, at some time or other, will ask about the meaning and purpose of life. We all attempt to answer the question related to the reason for our own existence. We ask, "What is the meaning of life?" The Bible gives us the answer. It is found in Colossians 1:18.

. . . That in all things He (Jesus Christ) might have the preeminence.

B. How the Christian is related to this all-inclusive plan of God is found in that great Biblical theme "The Call of God." We recognize, first of all, that this refers to salvation. In His sovereign grace God speaks conviction and life to sinners. (II Thess. 2:13,14) However, this "Call" goes far beyond salvation. It has to do with all believers. It designates the plan of God in each of our lives. God has called each of us to live for His glory.

I. The Fact of God's Call.

A. All Christians Have Been Called to Exalt Jesus Christ, Romans 8:28,29.

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.

Observation: The firstborn boy in the Jewish family was given a place of honor and respect. If the Father would die the boy would assume the responsibility of the family. This is why he was given a double inheritance. The purpose of God's call in each of our lives is that Jesus Christ might be given due honor and respect.

B. All Christians Have Been Called to Live so Jesus Christ would be Praised, I Peter 2:9.

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.

Observation: The message here is similar to the above passages. God has chosen us, made us priests, made us a part of the holy people of God and has described us as His peculiar (purchased) people. The purpose of all this is that we would live to His praise.

Now we see that God's call comes to all Christians, not only to the clergy. All are called alike - it is the commission or how we fulfill our call that is different.

II. The Characteristics of God's Call.

A. The Call of God is Inescapable, Romans 11:29.

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance*

B. The Call of God is Transforming, Ephesians 1:18.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of His calling

C. The Call of God is Rewarding, Philippians 3:13,14.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

D. The Call of God is Holy, Purposeful, Gracious and Eternal, II Timothy 1:9.

Who hath saved us and called us with an 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.

III. The Demands of God's Call.

A. The Christian has been Called to Fellowship, I Cor. 1:9.

God is faithful, by Whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Observation: This verse teaches us that if we are to fulfill our call we must learn to fellowship with God and daily live that way.

B. The Christian has been Called to Liberty, Galatians 5:13.

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty, only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Observation: When we received Jesus Christ as Savior we were set free from the power of sin. This liberty must be maintained. In all those areas where we have lost our freedom - we must choose to reject our bondage. (Romans 6:11-13)

C. The Christian has been Called to Live Worthy of God, Ephesians 4:1.

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation (calling) wherewith ye are called.

Observation: This should determine the character of our daily life. We are to live in harmony with God and His calling* This will involve us in honest and practical choices.

D. The Christian has been Called to Holiness, I Thess. 4:7.

For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

Observation: To honor God we must live a holy life*

IV. The Promise of God's Call.

Faithful is He that calleth you, Who also will do it. I Thess. 5:24.

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