

The Significance of the Believer's Calling

Introduction

- A. The Christian is one who has been called by God. This amazing truth should transform us and influence all the areas of our daily life.
- B. We are told in the Bible that we must live according to our call.

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

- I. We Have Been Called Out of Darkness - this is Our Past, 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: This verse summarizes our calling. We have been led, in salvation, out of darkness (sin and death) into light (forgiveness and life). The purpose of this calling is related to showing forth His praise.

- II. We Have Been Called to Exalt Jesus Christ - that is Our Purpose, Romans 8:28,29.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the willed according to His purpose ... that He might be the first-born among many brethren.

Observation: To be the "firstborn" in the Jewish family was to be given a place of honor and respect. We are to live so that Jesus Christ is recognized worthy of such honor.

- III. We Have Been Called to a Holy, Purposeful, Gracious, and Eternal Calling - these are to Define our Perspectives in Life, 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.

Observation: These characteristics of the call of God must become the very characteristics of our daily lives. We must be holy, live for a purpose, receive His grace, and recognize the eternal plan of God. Too often we simply live for ourselves.

- IV. We Have Been Called by God's Grace to Receive His Power - that is Our Provision, Galatians 1:15; I Corinthians 1:24.

But when it pleased God, Who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace . . . But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Observation: We all recognize that we cannot fulfill God's call in our own strength. Happily we do not have to. In our salvation we have been made the recipients of every provision to enable us to do so. These verses emphasize the truth that Jesus Christ Himself is our enablement - He is our grace, our power, and our wisdom.

- V. We Have Been Called to Cooperate With God - that is Our Encouragement, I Thessalonians 5:24.

Faithful is He that calleth you. Who also will do it.

Observation: This verse reminds us that our calling is a part of God's eternal plan to give Jesus Christ the preeminence in all things (Col. 1:18). In His amazing love and mercy He has permitted us to share in this great project. He assures us that He will be our daily enablement.

- VI. We Have Been Called by a Divine Calling - that is Our Expectation. Eph. 1:18,19.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.

Observation: When Paul prayed that we might know the "hope" of our calling he had in mind how this calling would cause us to anticipate the working of God in and through us. The virtue of hope, in the Bible, may be defined as "the certainty of faith's expectation". We should expect God to work - and trust Him to do so.

- VII. We Have Been Called to a Life of Fellowship - this is Our Privilege, I Cor. 1:9.

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

Observation: There is nothing impersonal about our call. One of the greatest honors that ever could be bestowed upon a person has been given to us - it is to fellowship with Jesus Christ. This is the very reason why the call of God is not more evident and more powerful in many of our lives - it is because we are not in fellowship with God. We have sinned and have not confessed it. We do not seek His face daily in prayer and Bible reading. What a tragic failure it is, when we can fellowship with God, and then fail to do so!

- VIII. We Have Been Called to a Life of Liberty - this is Our Freedom, Gal. 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 became believers we were set free from the dominion of sin. Now our obligation is to maintain our freedom by walking with God. This is a part of what it means to be called by God. He wants us to live in freedom from the world, from the flesh, and from the Devil. He has made the provision through Jesus Christ. It is now our privilege and obligation to choose, by faith and love, to put this provision into practice.

- IX. We Have Been Called to Glory - this is Our Future, I Peter 5:10.

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.

Observation: What a future the believer has in store for him. We have not only been set free from Hell and eternal judgment - we have been assured of Heaven. We should be daily thankful for this and seek to live worthy of our calling.

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