

CALLED

Intro: The word, in a variety of forms, is found all through the Word of God.

It is a word which is used again and again to describe the divine side of salvation. God calls; those of us who are saved are the called ones.

Following are some examples:

- 1) To the Galatian believers Paul wrote:
"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel" (Gal. 1:6).
- 2) Speaking of his own salvation, Paul writes in this way:
"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me . . ." (Gal. 1:15, 16a).
- 3) In his second letter to the Thessalonians, Paul expressed his thanksgiving for those who knew the Lord as follows:
"But we are bound to give thanks always 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, Unto which he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess. 2:13, 14).
- 4) To Timothy Paul wrote:
"Be not thou, therefore, ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner; but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God, 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" (2 Tim. 1:8, 9).

BEGIN
HERE →

Just recently I noticed this word in reading 1 Corinthians. It is prominent in chapter 1; it is prominent in chapter 7. The word is not always the same in the original, but it always has the same root. When you think of the trouble that was found in the Corinthian church, this word, "called," along with its meaning, was an emphasis that apparently the church had lost!

We all know (or should know) Rom. 8:28. (Quote it.) But how many of us can quote Rom. 8:29, 30?

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also

justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

What does it mean? Let us examine some of these passages for an answer.

I. IT MEANS THAT OUR SALVATION ORIGINATED WITH GOD.

It means that God has not only called us sovereignly to salvation, but, as you might expect, we have responded. It is an effectual call. It is a word to show how the will of God regarding our salvation has conquered our wills. Paul in Gal. 1:15, "But when it pleased GOD."

II. THE SCRIPTURES ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT GOD DOES NOT CALL US BECAUSE OF WHAT WE ARE.

Cf. 1 Cor. 1:26-31.

And this shows how the Corinthian church was off on the wrong foot by glorying in men -- even redeemed men! Paul said that 'not fit to be called an apostle because he persecuted the church of God" (1 Cor. 15:9b). In his first letter to Timothy he calls himself the chief of sinners.

When Cornelius fell down at Peter's feet,
"Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself
also am a man" (Acts 10:26).

But why has He called us? What are God's objectives since this all began with Him?

III. THE DIVINE OBJECTIVES OF OUR CALL.

A. The first has to be that we are called to salvation -- as a present possession.

The whole work is so complete that in Rom. 8:29, 30 Paul speaks of it as already finished.

Note: 2 Tim. 1:9 (written out on the preceding page). Paul says, "Who hath saved us."

To note another part of salvation, cf. 1 John 3:1, 2. Some MSS add at the end of v. 1, "And such we are!"

B. We are called to be saints, i.e., holy ones.

Cf. 1 Cor. 1:2. This is what we are. Cf. Rom. 1:7.

In 1 Thess. 4:7 Paul writes,
 "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness,
 but unto holiness."

Peter emphasizes the same thing:

"But, as he who hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of life, Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Pet. 1 15, 16).

That is written in Lev. 11:44.

To attain this we have another wonderful statement:

C. We are called "unto the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

This shows the intimate relationship we have with Him, the communion.

We find this illustrated in the way that the Apostle John begins his first epistle (1:1-3):

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life (for the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us) -- That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ."

Does this not amaze you? We are called to be with Him -- to share in all that He is -- to participate in all that He is doing! THIS IS FELLOWSHIP.

It is our calling -- not just an invitation, but an effective call.

D. Finally, we are "called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

If the calling originated with Him, then He is the One to reveal the reason, the purpose, behind the call.

Do you know what it is?

This is why we should never quote Rom. 8:28 without quoting vv. 29 and 30 too.

We are "called . . . to be conformed to the image of his Son." Cf. Eph. 1:18; 4:1, 4.

Concl: Can any of us really take this all in? "CALLED"!

Paul very affectionately addresses the Roman believers with these words,

"Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ."
Cf. Rom. 1:6. This probably means, called to belong to Jesus Christ.

We are called to belong to Him,
called to be with Him,
called to be like Him.

This is the sum-total of all that it means to be a Christian!

And it is only as we are living in accordance with our call that the Lord's blessing will be upon us and His peace within us.

For those who are without Christ . . .