

“CALLED OF GOD”

Rom.8:28-30

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Our subject is “Called of God”
2. As with every other Bible subject:
 - a. There is much misunderstanding, confusion and false doctrine which abounds, even among Bible believers, as to who is called, why they are called or for what purpose, and how they are called.
 - b. The Bible, rightly divided, must govern our thoughts and control our teaching on the subject.
 - c. All the Bible says on the subject we must consider if we are to arrive at the truth on the subject, not just one or two or a few passages, and those taken out of context.
 - d. When dealing with the subject we must consider who is speaking, to whom it is spoken or to whom it applies, as well as when and why it was spoken.
3. Furthermore, when something is said to have been done or to be done, such as with our subject – “Called of God” – we must learn **HOW** it is done, or **HOW** God calls.
4. With these things in mind, we ask the question: What does the Bible teach about the subject “Called of God”?

II. DISCUSSION

A. THE BIBLE AFFIRMS THERE IS SUCH A THING AS BEING “CALLED OF GOD” IN OUR DAY.

1. Rom.8:28, speaks of “them who are the called according to his purpose.”
2. Rom.8:30, speaks of “them he also called: and whom he called”
3. Rom.9:24, says “Even us, who he hath called”
4. Gal.1:6, speaks of “him that called you into the grace of Christ”
5. Gal.5:8, says “This persuasion cometh not from him that calleth you”
6. Eph.1:18, speaks of “the hope of his calling”
7. Phil.3:14, speaks of “the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”
8. 1Th.2:12, speaks of “God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory”
9. 1Th.5:24, declares “Faithful is he that calleth you”
10. 1Pet.1:15, affirms “But he which hath called you is holy”

B. WHOM HAS GOD CALLED?

1. The saints or the Christians at Rome were called of God, Rom.1:6: “Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ.”
 - a. That is, they were the called “belonging” to Jesus Christ.
 - b. Whose “faith is spoken of throughout the whole world,” 1:8.

- c. Who had been “made free from sin,” and become “servants of righteousness” by having “obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you,” 6:17,18.
 - d. Those who love God are called, Rom.8:28: “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.”
 - e. Those who are justified or declared righteous or made righteous and who will be glorified are called, Rom.8:30: “Moreover, whom he did predestinate (fore-appoint), them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified (declared righteous, or made righteous): and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”
2. The saints or the Christians at Corinth were called of God, 1Cor.1:2: “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...”
- a. Therefore, all are called of God:
 - (1) Who “are sanctified in Christ Jesus”
 - (2) Who “are saved” as these Corinthians were, 1Cor.15:2.
3. The Galatian Christians were called of God, Gal.1:6: “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from his that called you into the grace of Christ...”
- a. These who were called of God:
 - (1) Where “children of God by faith in Christ Jesus,” 3:26.
 - (2) Had “put on Christ” in baptism, 3:27.
 - (3) Belonged to Christ, were by faith “Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise,” 3:7,28,29.
4. The Ephesians were called of God, Eph.4:1: “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech (urge, beg) you that ye walk worthy (live lives worthy) of the vocation (calling, RV) wherewith ye are called.” Eph.4: “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling.”
- a. These Ephesians who were called of God:
 - (1) Where people who were called “the saints at Ephesus, and...the faithful in Christ Jesus,” 1:1.
 - (2) Who were enjoying “all spiritual blessings in...Christ,” 1:3.
 - (3) Who had been “chosen of God,” 1:4.
 - (4) Who had “redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace,” 1:7.
 - (5) Who had been “made a heritage” in Christ, 1:11.
 - (6) Who had been “quicken...together with Christ,” and “saved by grace through faith,” 2:5,8.
 - (7) Who had been “made nigh by the blood of Christ,” 2:13.
 - (8) Who had been “reconciled to God in one body by the cross” of Christ, 2:16

- (9) Who were “fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God,” 2:19.
 - (10) Who were in Christ “built together through the Spirit for a habitation of God,” 2:21.
5. The Thessalonians were called of God, 1Th.2:12: “That ye walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.” 1Th.5:24: “Faithful is he that calleth you” 2Th.2:11: “Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling.”
 - a. They are said to be “in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - b. They had “turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,” 1Th.1:9.
 - c. They were by faith waiting “for his Son from heaven,” who had “delivered them from the wrath to come,” 1Th.1:10.
 6. So the Bible teaches that baptized believers, saints, Christians, all those who make up the church belonging to Christ, are the “called of God”.
 7. Both Jesus and Gentiles are called of God, Rom.9:24,25: “Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people.” See Jno.10:16; 1Cor.1:24; 7:17-22.
 8. It’s the spiritual seed of Abraham, the seed of Abraham by faith, who are called:
 - a. Rom.9:7: “In Isaac shall thy seed be called”. The same in Gen.21:12b; Heb.11:18
 - b. Gal.3:7: “Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.”
 - c. Gal.3:16; Gal.3:22-29.

C. BUT HOW ARE THEY CALLED? WHAT IS THE MEANS OR THE METHOD BY WHICH GOD CALLS THE CALLED?

(People often read about the **fact** of what God does, but do not then read of **how** God does it.)

1. God calls the called by the gospel of Christ.
 - a. The Thessalonians were called by the gospel, 2Th.2:13,14.
 - (1) These brethren who were saved, who had the hope of obtaining the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, were chosen of God and called of God by means of the gospel of Christ. Cf. Ro.8:16-18.
 - b. What is true of the Thessalonians is also true of all others who are called of God, including all who are called today, Mk.16:15,16; Lk.24:47; 1:cor.1:21; 15:1,2; Ac.18:8; Gal.1:6-12; Rom.1:16,17; Rom.1:5; 16:25,26; 6:16-18.
 - c. For another way of stating it, see 1Cor.1:30; 2Cor.5:17-21.
 - (1) The **MEANS** of our redemption – Christ is the procuring means.
 - (2) The **OPERATION** of our redemption – Forgiveness, made free of the guilt of sin, as opposed to imputation (emphasize 2Cor.5:21).

(3) The **CONDITION** of our redemption – Gospel obedience, an obedient faith.

5. It's a conditional calling:

- a. The gospel must be heard, believed and obeyed, Mk.16:15,16; Ac.3:36-41; 2Th.1:6-10.
- b. One must then continue in faith and obedience, Mt.7:21-23; Heb.5:8,9; 2Pet.1:5-11; 1Cor.9:27.

D. WHY ARE WE CALLED BY THE GOSPEL? UNTO WHAT ARE WE CALLED? CONSIDERED BOTH NEGATIVELY AND POSITIVELY AS TO THE NATURE, RELATIONSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY AND ULTIMATE GOAL OF THE CALLING.

1. Mt.9:13: "...for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."
2. 1Cor.1:9: "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."
3. Gal.5:13: "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty (cf.v.1) , only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." Cf. 1Pet.1:22.
4. Eph.4:1-3; Cf. Phil.1:27.
5. Col.3:15: "And let the peace of God rule (umpire) in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful>"
6. 1Th.2:12: "That ye walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory." Cf. 2Pet.1:10,11.
7. 1Th.4:7: "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." Cf. 2Cor.6:17-7:1.
8. 1Tim.1;9: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling...according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ before the world began (before times eternal)."
9. 1Pet.1:15,16: "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."
10. 1Pet.2:9,10: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar (purchased) people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." Cf. Col.1:12-14.
11. 1Pet.2:19-24; 3:8,9.

III. CONCLUSION

1. All of the saved – those who have heard, believed and obeyed the gospel of Christ, thus called by the gospel – are called of God, and are brethren in Christ and with Christ, Heb.2:11,12.

2. Jesus Christ has forbidden religious titles worn by men and declared that all of us are just brethren, when he said: “and all ye are brethren,” Mt.23:8 – Read vv.1-12.
3. There is no special group or a special call of one brother over another today to serve the Lord in preaching the gospel.
4. Any and all special calls to preach the gospel were to the apostles of Jesus Christ, the original messengers of the gospel, and to other inspired preachers and prophets of the N.T. during the days of progressive revelation before the complete will of God had been revealed, Jno.14:26; 15:26,27; 16:7,13-15; Lk.24:44-49; Ac.1:1-9; 2:1-4; Lk.1:1-4; Rom.1:1-5; 10:15; 1Cor.2:9-13; Gal.1:11-16,23; Eph.3:1-5; 1Th.2:13; 2Tim.1:6; 4:1-5; 1Cor.12:1,4-11.
 - a. When these special messengers were called of God and sent to preach the gospel, they were also divinely inspired and given the message to be preached. Cf. Mt.10:16-20.
5. Any and all of the God-called of today are charged to teach others; but they must teach only that which has been revealed by the original messengers and written down by those former inspired messengers of God, Eph.3:1-5; 2Tim.2:1,2; 1Tim.1:3; 2Tim.3:16-4:5; 2Jno.9.

(Companion lesson to “Called To Preach”)