

“CALLED TO PREACH”

Rom.10:15

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By “called to preach” we refer to those who in the past were called of God to preach, and to those of today who claim to have been “called of God” to preach.
2. Men of old were called of God and sent to preach – men of both the Old and New Testament times.
3. Men today often claim to be “called of God and sent to preach the gospel.
4. Of the first we have no doubt because there is Scriptural proof and example after example of these God-called and God-sent preachers – both the O.T. prophets and the N.T. apostles of Christ.
5. Of the second – those of today who make the claim of being “God-called” and “God-sent” to preach the gospel – we deny. There is no such thing today as a God-called and God-sent preacher preaching the gospel of Christ.
6. The burden of this lesson is to affirm and offer scriptural of the one and to offer scriptural proof denying the other.

II. DISCUSSION

A. SOME GOD-CALLED PREACHERS OF THE O.T.

1. Moses, Exo.3:4-15.
 - a. How it was proven to Moses that the people would believe he was called of God and sent, Exo.4:1-7.
 - b. How he would be able to convince the people he was called and sent, Exo.4:8,9.
2. Isaiah, Isa.1:1,2a; 2:1; 6:1; 7:14; 8:1; 53:1-12.
 - a. N.T. affirmation that Isaiah was God’s spokesman, Mt.1:21-23 (Isa.7:14); Ac.8:26-35; Rom.9:33; 10:11 (Isa.28:16).
3. Jeremiah, 1:1-5; 31:31-34.
 - a. N.T. proof that Jeremiah was God’s spokesman, Heb.8:8-12 (Jer.31:31-34)
4. Joel, 1:1-3; 2:28-32.
 - a. N.T. proof of his claim to speak for God, Ac.2:14-21 (Joel 2:28-32).
5. Many others.
6. We have a N.T. “this is that” or its equivalent for each of these, which means we have inspired testimony proving they were God-called and God-sent to speak for God.

B. HOW DID THE PEOPLE OF O.T. TIMES DETERMINE IF THE ONE CLAIMING TO BE A PROPHET OF GOD WAS A TRUE OR A FALSE PROPHET?

1. By two simple tests. They would know he was a false prophet:

- a. If he taught a false doctrine, e.g., to “go after other gods, which thou hast not known,” even though that prophet might give them a sign or a wonder that came to pass, Deut.13:1-5.
 - b. “If the thing follow not, nor come to pass” which he prophesied, Deut.18:20-22.
2. By these two simple tests they could prove their prophets true or false. By these two simple tests they could know who was God-called and who was not!

C. MEN OF N.T. TIMES WHO WERE CALLED OF GOD AND SENT TO PREACH.

1. The Apostles of Jesus Christ, Mt.10:1-7; 28:16-20; Mk.16:15,16; Lk.24:44-47; Ac.1:1,2; 26:15-20; Rom.1:1-5,14-16; Gal.1:11,12,15,16; Eph.3:1-9; 1Cor.9:16; Jno.14:26; 15:26,27; 16:13.
2. How were they able to demonstrate the proof of their claim to be God-called and God-sent, and to prove the divine authenticity of their message, when they went to all areas of the world where they were unknown, and if and when they were challenged, as Paul was at Corinth?
 - a. His apostleship, inspiration and apostolic authority was challenged, 2Cor.13:3; 1Cor.9:1,2; 14:37.
 - b. The proof of his claim? 2Cor.12:12; Cf. Ac.13:4-12.
 - c. See also: Mk.16:19,20; Lk.24:49; Ac.1:1-8; 2:1-4; Heb.2:1-4.

D. SCRIPTURAL REASONS AS PROOF THERE ARE NO PRESENT-DAY GOD-CALLED AND GOD-SENT PREACHERS.

1. First, the apostles of Christ have no successors. If so, where is the scriptural proof of such?
 - a. They completed their mission.
 - b. They gave us the complete, all-sufficient revelation of God’s will in written form, just as Jesus promised they would, Jno.16:13; Eph.3:1-4; 1Jno.1:1-4; 2Tim.3:16,17; 1Cor.13:8-13.
 - c. We have the perfect law of liberty in written form, Jas.1:25.
 - d. The faith they received, preached, and committed to written form has been, according to Jude 3,
 - (1) “Once delivered unto the saints,” or “once for all delivered unto the saints,” just as Jesus was “once offered to bear the sins of many” (Heb.9:28; 1Pet.3:18).
 - (2) It is a “permanent deposit, never to be superceded, emended, or modified.”
 - (3) It “stands complete, perfect, an adequate and inviolable deposit of truth.”
 - (4) It’s a “revealed faith;” “a set faith;” it’s “of perpetual validity, not to be violated.”

- e. Thus all truth has been revealed by these apostles of Christ, leaving no place for any present-day so-called God-called preachers to reveal some so-called previously unrevealed truth of God.
2. Secondly, there is only one saving message for today, one gospel of Christ, which is God's power to save, or one doctrine of Christ, with any other message being a perverted gospel which condemns rather than saves, Gal.1:6-9; 2Jno.9-11; 2Th.2:10-12.
 - a. These apostles preached this one message, the one gospel, the one doctrine of Christ, everywhere the world over, in every church, Gal.1:23; 1Cor.4:17; cf. Eph.4:4-6.
 - b. They also, by apostolic authority, commanded:
 - (1) That no other doctrine be taught, 1Tim.1:3.
 - (2) That one and all believers "speak the same thing," and that Christ is not divided into different groups with different beliefs and different doctrines, 1Cor.1:10-13; cf. Jno.17:20,21.
 3. Thirdly, every so-called present-day God-called and God-sent preacher proves he is neither God-called, nor God-sent to preach because:
 - a. All of them – each and every one of them – without exception, preach another gospel, a perverted gospel; they preach a variety of false doctrines.
 - (1) Examples.
 - (2) This is one of the ways false prophets of O.T. times were proved to be false, Deut.13:1-5.
 - b. They cannot demonstrate the proof of their claim, even though some claim miraculous power, and some claim other kinds of direct, mysterious revelation from God by means of an angel or other means.
 - (1) We have only their unconfirmed word and their un-confirmable word for it!
 - (2) And the very doctrines they preach, which are contrary to the written word, the true gospel of Christ, and thus false, deny their claim!
 - (3) Their false claims were the second test to prove one a false prophet in O.T. times, Deut.18:20-22.
 4. Fourthly, every scripture they rely upon for proof of their right to claim to be God-called applied to and was limited to the apostles of Christ or to other inspired preachers of the N.T. period.
 - a. Not one of the passages they rely upon can be scripturally and properly applied to a present-day preachers!
 - b. They often use such passages as Jno.14:26; 15:26,27; 16:7-15; Rom.10:15.
 - c. Show how these can rightly be applied to the apostles of Christ, the original messengers, only.

III. CONCLUSION

1. In times past there was an absolute need for God-called and God-sent preachers because the message of salvation had to come directly from God, because God had not before that time made it known to men, 1Cor.2:9-13; Eph.3:1-6, etc.
2. Now God's will has been made known in its completed form and committed to written form, as we have shown, and we must learn it by reading it, not by some so-called present-day God-called and God-sent preacher, Eph.3:3,4; 1Jno.1:1-5a; 5:13; Jno.20:30,31; Eph.5:17.
3. By that written word we shall be judged, not by some so-called latter day revelation, Jno.12:48-50.
4. Thus we are to do as Timothy was charged in 2Tim.4:1-5 and for the same reason.
5. We dare not add to it, subtract from it, or substitute for it, Deut.4:2; 29:29; 1Cor.4:6; 1Pet.4:11; Rev.22:18,19.
6. There are no present-day God-called and God-sent preachers in spite of their claim to the contrary. Thus like the false prophets of the O.T., they are making false claims and preaching false doctrines! Mt.15:9; Col.2:20-22; Jno.8:32; 2th.2:9-12.