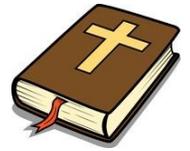


Have You Been "Called"?

What does it mean to "call" someone? When the Bible gives evidence of people being "called" by God...what does it mean?



God is the only
acceptable
object of
worship!

(Matthew 4:10;
Acts 17:22-31)

There are times to call to someone in order that he may come or go somewhere. This is particularly with a voice as a shepherd calls his flock (Mark 1:20). When the Scripture says, Jesus "called them" it means He called them to follow as His disciples; Luke 19:13, "calling them together"; John 10:3). The word is also used generally to "call" in some way, to send for, or direct to come (Matthew 2:7, 15; Hebrews 11:18 quotes Genesis 21:12). The word "call" is also used authoritatively, to call forth, summon, e.g., before a judge (Acts 4:18; 24:2). Then, there is the sense of "invite," particularly to a banquet as the wedding feast (Matthew 22:3, 9; John 2:2). "Call" is used in an absolute sense in Matthew 22:8; Luke 7:39; 14:8, 17; 1 Corinthians 10:27. And "call" is used metaphorically, to invite to anything...for instance, of Jesus, to call to repentance, and to exhort (Matthew 9:13); Christians are "called" of God (1 Corinthians 1:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; 1 Timothy 6:12; 1 Peter 2:9; 5:10). To be "called" into the kingdom of God means to share the duties, privileges, and bliss of the Christian life here and hereafter (1 Thessalonians 2:12). This "kingdom call" is noted in Romans 9:24; 1 Corinthians 7:15, 17ff; Galatians 5:8, 13; 2 Timothy 1:9; Hebrews 9:15; and 1 Peter 2:21. To "call" is to name, or to give a name to any person or thing. Thus, the "call" could be a proper name or surname (Matthew 1:21, "thou shalt call his name JESUS"; also Matthew 1:23, 25; Luke 1:13; 2:21). This "call" can be descriptive (Matthew 2:23, "He shall be called a Nazarene"; 22:43; 23:7, 8, 10; Luke 6:15; 15:19, 21; Acts 14:12; Romans 9:26; James 2:23; 1 John 3:1). To be "called" involves an invitation (Matthew 9:13; 22:3; 1 Corinthians 10:27; and Acts 2:39). To be "called" involves a designation (Matthew 1:21; 5:9; Acts 14:12; Hebrews 2:11; 11:18). And to be "called" involves an appeal (Matthew 10:25; Luke 22:3; Acts 1:23; Hebrews 11:16). There is an invocation (Acts 2:21; 7:59; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1:23; 1 Peter 1:17). There is a summons (Acts 7:14; 10:32)!

In the epistles, particularly Paul's, there is a definite "call" of God to the blessings of salvation. It is intimately associated with the eternal purpose of God in our redemption. The "called" are those invited to the gospel feast - people who had heard and accepted (Matthew 22:14). In the epistles, "the called" are frequently synonymous with "the chosen" (Romans 8:28; 9:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 14; 1 Peter 2:9, where a nation or offspring, are those who are "called...out of darkness into His marvelous light"). Thus, choosing is included in "calling." With Paul and also Peter, the "calling" is more than an invitation. It is an invitation **responded to and accepted**. They often refer to those who have had an effectual "call" (Romans 1:1, 6, 7; 8:28; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 24) and also to the appointed ones (Romans 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:1).

To respond to the "call" of God is not to be taken without serious conviction. Sin needs to be repented of and confession must be made. The Son of God is the one doing the "calling" and we must diligently determine the significance of His "call." He "calls" people to die to self and live for God. This begins when responding to the gospel "call" by being immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins. God give the gift of His Holy Spirit to abide in the person who answers the "call." He seeks discipleship, fellowship, and servanthood. Come and He will make you "fishers of men" (Mark 1:16-20). Have you been called? Have you accepted His call?

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few "family" announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord's Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and Gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us!

Bday/Anniv Lunch: 2nd Sunday of the month...

Friday Bible Study: the "abiding" continues on January 3, 2020 at 7PM. God bless your *serious* Bible study this coming year and on into the future (**2 Timothy 2:15**)!

SO MUCH "Thank You" & "Appreciation" from the "Goody Bag" recipients.

TO YOU! Kevin & Susie say a

HUGE, TREMENDOUS THANK

Y'ALL for the GIFTing!

