

# The Called

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*"Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ" (Romans 1:6).*

*"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).*

**G**od has not been haphazardly working His way through the stages of time. God has had a very definite plan, and He is masterfully working it to fulfill His own predetermined purpose. His plan is, always has been, and always will be right on schedule.

*"... What His soul desireth, even that He doeth" (Job 23:13).*

*"But our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased" (Psalm 115:3).*

*"... Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did He in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places" (Psalm 135:5, 6).*

*"... He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, 'What doest Thou?'" (Daniel 4:35).*

*"The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, **Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand**" (Isaiah 14:24).*

*"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and **I will do all My pleasure**" (Isaiah 46:10).*

*"For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to Whom be glory for ever. Amen" (Romans 11:36).*

*"... Him **who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will**" (Ephesians 1:11).*

Those of us who have trusted the cross-work of the Lord Jesus Christ, and are now saved by His grace, did not do so by chance. It was all a part of the divine plan.

“... *God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation ...*” (II Thessalonians 2:13).

“... *He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world ...*” (Ephesians 1:4).

“... *being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will*” (Ephesians 1:11).

“*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*” (II Timothy 1:9).

In fact, it was God who gave us our faith to believe and respond to His calling.

“*For **unto you it is given** in the behalf of Christ, not only **to believe on Him**, but also to suffer for His sake*” (Philippians 1:29).

“*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as **God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith***” (Romans 12:3).

“*For by grace are **ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God**: not of works, lest any man should boast*” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

In our two initial texts at the beginning we see the term “*the called.*” This is what Paul calls the believer. We who now trust God are “The Called;” we are the elect of God. This calling is an election to divine service.

“*Knowing, brethren beloved, **your election of God***” (I Thessalonians 1:4).

“*Who shall lay any thing to the charge of **God’s elect**?*” (Romans 8:33).

“*For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that **the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of Him that calleth***” (Romans 9:11).

It is very important to understand something about our calling. God has not “*saved us, and called us with a holy calling*” simply to abandon all the rest of mankind in eternal torment. We are but the *firstfruits* of Christ’s redemptive work. We are His *first-trusters*. God’s ultimate plan includes *all* of His creation. None will be permanently lost.

God does not currently seek to reveal Himself, nor His plan to the masses. If it was His purpose, He would have accomplished it long ago. The fact is that He has taken elaborate

steps to assure that He and His plan are sufficiently hid from the masses.

“... Thou hast **hid these things from the wise and prudent**, and hast revealed them unto babes” (Matthew 11:25).

“But they understood not this saying, and it was **hid from them**, that they perceived it not ...” (Luke 9:45).

Instead, God chooses who He wants to receive His revelation *at this time*.

“... All men cannot receive this saying, save they to **whom it is given**” (Matthew 19:11).

God’s plan upon the stage of human history is to initially reveal Himself to a few – the remnant, the called, the elect. This is why our salvation and calling is “according to His own purpose and grace,” both of which were given to us “before the world began.”

“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**” (II Timothy 1:9).

God draws those He has *chosen*, whether in His past dealings with Israel, or His present dealings with the members of the Body of Christ.

## ISRAEL

“... the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people” (Deuteronomy 7:6-7).

“O ye seed of Israel His servant, ye children of Jacob, His **chosen ones**” (I Chronicles 16:13).

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have **chosen you**, and ordained you ... I have **chosen you** out of the world” (John 15:16, 19).

## THE BODY OF CHRIST

“According as He hath **chosen us** in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” (Ephesians 1:4).

“... God hath from the beginning **chosen you** to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth” (II Thessalonians 2:13).

God's calling has always been to a few. He told Israel that He did not set His love upon them, nor choose them, because they were more in number than any people; but because they were "*the fewest of all people*" (Deuteronomy 7:7).

God's calling has also always been to service. The reason that God has only called a few during the course of human history is that He is calling out a *small* company of servants for His name.

God has called a few who He is preparing to rule with Him, serving the rest of creation.

A survey through the Scripture's use of the word "*chosen*" will reveal that God's calling is one to service:

"... God hath **chosen him out** ... to stand **to minister** in the name of the LORD ..." (Deuteronomy 18:5).

"... Them ... God hath **chosen to minister** unto Him ..." (Deuteronomy 21:5).

"... Them hath the LORD **chosen ... to minister** unto Him ..." (I Chronicles 15:2).

"... He hath **chosen** Judah **to be the ruler** ..." (I Chronicles 28:4).

"... He hath **chosen** Solomon ... **to sit upon the throne** of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel" (I Chronicles 28:5).

"... the LORD hath **chosen you to stand before** Him, **to serve** Him, and that ye should **minister** unto Him ..." (II Chronicles 29:11).

"... My **servant** whom I have **chosen**: that ye may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He" (Isaiah 43:10).

"Behold My **servant**, Whom I have **chosen** ..." (Matthew 12:18).

"... I have **chosen** you, and **ordained** you, that ye should **go and bring forth fruit**, and that your fruit should remain ..." (John 15:16).

"... He is a **chosen** vessel unto Me, **to bear My name** ..." (Acts 9:15).

Notice Isaiah 43:10 again, for it is of particular significance as to one's calling in relationship to God Himself.

"... My servant whom I have chosen: **that** ye may **know** and **believe** Me, and **understand** that I am He" (Isaiah 43:10).

God draws His *chosen* into personal relationship with Himself. He has chosen us for the

purpose of *knowing* Him, *believing* Him, and *understanding* Him. *This* is our calling.

The religious are satisfied to learn *about* Him, the chosen are given the heart to actually *know* Him. Paul wrote,

*“That I may **know Him**, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death”* (Philippians 3:10).

The religious systems of man blinds and binds men, sidetracking them by endless busy-work – meetings, group activities, projects, and mass instruction, all resulting in a secondhand “knowledge” and “faith” concerning “God.”

Our particular culture’s religious masses are “Christian;” but if they lived in another culture they undoubtedly would have adapted the context of its religious persuasion (e.g. Islam, Buddhism, etc.).

God is now tutoring “*The Called*” for service in the “*heavenly places*.” We are a part of the Many-Membered Christ, the Firstborn.

We will close this particular study by cataloging the Scriptural details of our unique and divine calling. We will only observe the verses themselves at this time.

### **We are the Called**

*“Among whom are ye also the called ...”* (Romans 1:6).

*“... Who are the called ...”* (Romans 8:28).

### **We are the Called of Jesus Christ**

*“Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ”* (Romans 1:6).

### **We are Called to be Saints**

*“... Called to be saints ...”* (Romans 1:7).

*“... Called to be saints ...”* (I Corinthians 1:3).

### **We are Called into the Fellowship of Jesus Christ**

*“... Called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord”* (I Corinthians 1:9).

### **We are Called into the Grace of Christ**

*“... Called you into the grace of Christ...”* (Galatians 1:6).

### **We are Called to Peace**

“... God hath called us to peace” (I Corinthians 7:15).

### **We are Called unto Liberty**

“... Ye have been called unto liberty ...” (Galatians 5:13).

### **We are Called into God’s Kingdom**

“... Who hath called you unto His kingdom...” (I Thessalonians 2:12).

### **We are Called into God’s Glory**

“... Who hath called you unto His... glory” (I Thessalonians 2:12).

### **“We are Called into Christ’s Glory”**

“... He called you ... to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (II Thessalonians 2:14).

### **We are Called by Paul’s Gospel**

“... He called you by our gospel ...” (II Thessalonians 2:14).

### **Our Calling is a Divine Vocation**

“... The vocation wherewith ye are called” (Ephesians 4:1).

### **Ours is a High Calling**

“... The high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

### **Ours is a Holy Calling**

“... Called us with an holy calling ...” (II Timothy 1:9).

### **Our Calling was Predestinated**

“... Whom He did predestinate, them He also called ...” (Romans 8:30).

### **Our Calling was Before the Foundation of the World**

“According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world ...” (Ephesians 1:4).

## **Our Calling was *from the Beginning***

“... God hath from the beginning chosen you ...” (II Thessalonians 2:13).

## **Ours is a “*Not Many*” Calling**

“... Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called” (I Corinthians 1:26).

## **Ours is an *Out-Calling***

“... The body, the church [i.e., the ecclesia – the called-out-ones] ...” (Colossians 1:18)

## **Our Calling is Established upon *God’s Faithfulness***

“Faithful is He that calleth you, Who also will do it” (I Thessalonians 5:24).

“God is faithful, by Whom ye were called ...” (I Corinthians 1:9).

## **Ours is a *Permanent Calling***

“... The gifts and calling of God are without repentance” (Romans 11:29).

## **Ours is an *Unalterable Calling***

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

The fact that we are “*The Called*” is one of the most amazing and glorious truths of our relationship with God. This catalog of the details of our calling is pregnant with divine richness.

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