

THE CALL

Are you called?

(Rom 8:28 NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Acts 9:1-20

Point 1

There are no hopeless cases.

The least of the Apostles

(1 Cor 15:8-9 NIV) and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Called to be an Apostle

(Rom 1:1 NIV) Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God--

Paul was a tough case

(Acts 9:13-14 NIV) "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

Point 2

God honors us by calling us to be participate with Him in His work.

Consider Peter's calling

(Mat 4:18-20 NIV) As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Consider Matthew's calling

(Mat 9:9 NIV) As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

Consider Philip's calling

(John 1:43 NIV) The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.

Consider Nathanael's calling

(John 1:45 NIV) Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

Not everyone responded

(Luke 9:59 NIV) He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

(Luke 18:22 NIV) When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Called to be...

- Paul... an Apostle (Romans 1:1)
- Philip.. an evangelist (Acts 21:8)
- Timothy... Paul's fellow worker (Rom 16:21)
- Agabusa... a prophet (Acts 21:10)
- Tabitha... helper of the poor (Acts 9:36)
- Erastus... Paul's helper (Acts 19:22)
- Tertius... scribe for the Epistle of Romans (Rom 16:21)
- Archippus... host of a church (Phile 1:2)

What about you?

(Rom 8:28 NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

If you are in Christ you are called...

- Out of darkness (1 Pet 2:9)
- To eternal life (1 Tim 6:12)
- Into fellowship with his Son (1 Cor 1:9)
- To be free (Gal 5:13)
- To peace (Col 3:15)
- To one hope (Eph 4:4)
- To His eternal glory (1 Pet 5:10)
- To be holy (1 Pet 1:15)
- To Bless (1 Pet 3:9)
- To suffer for His sake (1 Pet 2:21)

Point 3

There is a cost to the call.

What Paul left...

(Phil 3:5-6 NIV) If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

What Paul gained...

(Acts 9:15-16 NIV) But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

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How Paul suffered...

- Worked much harder (2 Cor 11:23)
- In prison more frequently (2 Cor 11:23)
- Flogged more severely (2 Cor 11:23)
- Exposed to death often (2 Cor 11:23)
- Five times received 39 lashes (2 Cor 11:24)
- Three times beaten with rods (2 Cor 11:25)
- Stoned once (2 Cor 11:25)
- Three times shipwrecked, (2 Cor 11:25)
- A night & a day in the open sea, (2 Cor 11:25)
- Constantly on the move (2 Cor 11:26)

How Paul suffered...

- In danger from rivers (2 Cor 11:26)
- In danger from bandits (2 Cor 11:26)
- In danger from countrymen (2 Cor 11:26)
- In danger from Gentiles (2 Cor 11:26)
- In danger in the city (2 Cor 11:26)
- In danger in the country (2 Cor 11:26)
- In danger at sea (2 Cor 11:26)
- In danger from false brothers (2 Cor 11:26)

How Paul suffered...

- Labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep (2 Cor 11:27)
- Known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; (2 Cor 11:27) Have been cold and naked (2 Cor 11:27)
- Daily faces the pressure of concern for all the churches (2 Cor 11:27)

Paul gained Christ

(Phil 3:7-8 NIV) But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

CONCLUSION