

**Outline of  
the Messages for the Full-time Training  
in the Fall Term of 2007**

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**GENERAL SUBJECT: THE BELIEVERS**

Message Twenty-Three

**Their Present—Called by God**

Scripture Reading: Rom. 8:28-30; 2 Tim. 1:9-10; 1 Pet. 5:10; 2 Pet. 1:3

- I. God's full salvation is in three stages—the initial stage, the progressing stage, and the completing stage; the first aspect of the initial stage (regeneration) is God's calling—Rom. 8:30.**
  
- II. The believers are called by God Himself; God's calling originates with God and is initiated by God—Acts 2:39; Rom. 9:11; Gal. 5:8; 1 Thes. 5:24:**
  - A. God has called us according to His predestination—Eph. 1:4-5; 1 Pet. 1:1-2:
    1. Under His sovereign arrangement, God comes to call His chosen ones to bring them back to His original intention—Rev. 4:11; Eph. 1:4-5, 11.
    2. Because God has called us according to His predestination, we cannot escape His calling; God calls everyone whom He has predestinated—Rom. 8:30.
  - B. God has called us according to His purpose—v. 28; 2 Tim. 1:9:
    1. God's purpose is His plan according to His will to place us into Christ, making us one with Him to share His life and position that we may be His testimony—Eph. 1:5, 9, 11; 3:11.
    2. God predestinated us to be conformed to the image of His Son so that He would be the Firstborn among many brothers; the purpose of this is that we would express God in a corporate way—Rom. 8:28-30.
  - C. God has called us according to His grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages but manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus—2 Tim. 1:9-10.
  - D. God has called us by His own glory and virtue—2 Pet. 1:3:
    1. The goal of God's calling is the glory of God—the expression of God, God expressed in splendor—Rev. 21:10-11.
    2. Virtue is the energy and strength of life for reaching God's goal—1 Pet. 2:9.
  - E. God has called us in Christ and through the gospel preached by the sent ones—5:10; 2 Thes. 2:14:
    1. Christ is the element and sphere in which the believers are called by God.
    2. The preaching of the gospel is the sounding of God's heavenly and eternal call—Rom. 8:30; 10:14-15.
  
- III. It is of vital importance that we see the purpose of God's calling—8:28:**
  - A. Whatever God does, He does with a definite purpose; this is especially true of God's calling—Rev. 4:11; 2 Tim. 1:9-10.

- B. God has called us in order to bring us out of darkness into His marvelous light; darkness is the expression and sphere of Satan in death, and light is the expression and sphere of God in life—1 Pet. 2:9.
- C. God has called us so that He may separate us from all the common things and sanctify us unto Himself for His own purpose—Heb. 3:1:
  - 1. In God's holy calling, a high and heavenly calling, the believers are separated to God and thus become saints—1 Cor. 1:2.
  - 2. The saints are produced through the calling of the sanctifying God, who calls them out of the world unto Himself; hence, God's calling is a separation and a sanctification—Rom. 1:7; Heb. 3:1; 13:12-13.
  - 3. The holy, high, and heavenly calling is a calling with a divine hope—the hope of God's calling—Eph. 1:18; 4:4; Col. 1:27.
- D. God has called us into the fellowship of, the participation of, the enjoyment of, Jesus Christ our Lord—1 Cor. 1:9:
  - 1. Christ Himself is actually the fellowship into which God has called us; to be called into the fellowship of Jesus Christ means to be called into Him.
  - 2. This fellowship involves not only the oneness between us and the Triune God but also the oneness among all the believers—John 17:21-23.
  - 3. The fact that we have been called into the fellowship of God's Son means that we and Christ have become one; it also means that we enjoy Christ in all He is and that He enjoys us and what we are.
- E. God has called us to the suffering of Christ; God's calling includes both the enjoyment of Christ and the suffering of Christ—1 Pet. 2:20-21.
- F. God has called us to the peace of Christ for His one Body—Col. 3:15:
  - 1. The peace of Christ is the peaceful oneness in the new man—Eph. 2:15.
  - 2. Christ Himself is the peace that carries on a work of arbitration within us to keep us at peace with God and with one another for His one Body.
- G. God has called us to obtain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ—2 Thes. 2:14:
  - 1. The glory of the Lord is that He, as the Son of God, possesses the Father's life and nature to express Him; for us to obtain the Lord's glory is to be in the same position as the Son of God to express the Father—John 17:22.
  - 2. God has called us unto the obtaining of this glory, the glory of the divine life and the divine nature to express the Divine Being.
- H. God has called us into His eternal glory for the expression of the God of all grace—1 Pet. 5:10:
  - 1. Our God is the God of all grace, and He has called us into eternal glory, a glory that is unlimited in both space and time.
  - 2. It is a great miracle that fallen sinners can be brought into God's eternal glory, into His eternal expression; we have been called into God's glory for the expression of the God of all grace.
- I. God has called us into His kingdom and glory—1 Thes. 2:12:
  - 1. The Christian life has a goal, and this goal is the kingdom of God; the kingdom is the unique goal of our Christian walk—Matt. 6:33.
  - 2. The kingdom of God involves the glory of God; when we enter into the kingdom of God, we will enter into the glory of God—the goal of God's calling—v. 13b.