

God's Call
Lesson Outline

Reading Lesson: Romans 10:1-15

Lesson Text: John 15:16

Two calls that go out from God:

- Call to repentance
- Call to service

Comments about the call to repentance

Main focus on call to service (in particular the call to preach)

Call to repentance:

- To Adam after his transgression
- To Cain after the murder of Abel
- To Israel (God's chosen people – numerous occasions throughout their history)
- By John the Baptist
- By Jesus
- By the Apostles
- By Paul - Call extended to all (Acts 17:30)

Call to Service (to preach in particular):

Throughout the ages God has called upon men and has called men to be His witnesses and messengers to declare His majesty, glory and righteousness and to declare and teach the way of salvation.

Examples:

Old Testament:

- Noah (Genesis 6:8,13-14)
- Abram/Abraham (Genesis 12:1)
- Moses (Exodus 3:1-10)
- Gideon (Judges 6:14)
- Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-10)
- Isaiah (Isaiah 6:2-10)
- Jeremiah (1:4-10)
- Jonah (Jonah 1:1-2)
- Other prophets ("thus saith the Lord"; "the word of the Lord that came"; etc.

New Testament:

- John the Baptist (John 1:6)
- Peter and Andrew (Matthew 4:18-20)
- James and John (Matthew 4:21-22)
- Matthew (Matthew 9:9)
- Other disciples (Matthew 10:1-5)
- Paul (Acts 9:4-22)
- Barnabus (Acts 13:1-4)
- Timothy (Acts 16:1-5)

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- Titus (by reference in 2 Corinthians, Galatians, 2 Timothy and instruction in Titus)
- Elders in the churches

Reaction(s) to God's call:

- Misunderstood
- Denial
- Resistance even rebellion
- Tried spiritually
 - Be sure it is God calling (1 John 4:1)
 - Be sure of (2 Peter 2:10)
- Indifference or delay
- Question of ability (and/or worthiness)
- Surrender (acceptance)
- Obedience
- Answered
- Embraced

Answering the call:

- Reluctance
- Dread
- Resistive
- Indifference
- Giving of self up to
- Embraced
- Followed with zeal and energy

Work Called to: (Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:27-30)

Verse 11: Called to:

- Some apostles (a *delegate*; specifically an *ambassador* of the Gospel; officially a *commissioner* of Christ ("apostle"), (with miraculous powers):—apostle, messenger, he that is sent – special office now ceased)
- Some prophets (a *foreteller* ("prophet"); by analogy an *inspired speaker*, by extension a *poet*)
- Some evangelists (a *preacher* of the gospel)
- Some pastors¹ and teachers² (¹Of uncertain affinity; a *shepherd* (literally or figuratively):—shepherd, pastor. – ²an *instructor* (generally or specifically):—doctor, master, teacher
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Verse 12: Called to:

- The perfecting of the saints
- The work of the ministry
- The edifying of the body of Christ
(additional explanation in verses 14-16)

God not only calls us to preach His gospel but also to live it!