

Called By God (Part 3) **Romans 1:1-7**

Sermon-in-a-Sentence: The Lord calls us through the Gospel to be His followers and His ambassadors to the world.

The Call of God is:

- 1) An offer and an invitation from God—He invites us into a personal relationship with Himself and offers us His free gift of salvation with all of its attendant blessings.
- 2) "A summons or an invitation" (*The American Heritage Dictionary*)
 - a. The Lord calls us to be His followers.
 - b. The focus here is on the blessings and privileges of the Christian life.
- 3) "A claim on a person's time or life" (*The American Heritage Dictionary*)
 - a. The Lord calls us to be His ambassadors.
 - b. The emphasis here is on the responsibilities and duties of the Christian life.
- 4) So God calls us both to relationship and responsibility.

Note the emphasis on calling in this passage: 1) God's calling of the Apostle Paul; 2) Paul's ministry of calling people to faith in Jesus Christ; and 3) God's calling on our own lives.

I. The Author (1:1, 5a)

- A. His Identity** – a servant of Christ Jesus
- B. His Calling** – called to be an apostle
- C. His Ministry** – (vs. 1) set apart for [the proclamation of] the gospel of God...(vs. 5) to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith

II. The Gospel (1:2)

- A. The Fountain of the Gospel** – the gospel of God
- B. The Foretelling of the Gospel** – the gospel he promised beforehand through is prophets in the Holy Scriptures
- C. The Fulfillment of the Gospel** – regarding his Son...Jesus Christ

III. The Lord (1:3-4)

- A. His Humanity** – a descendant of David
- B. His Deity** – the Son of God
- C. His Lordship** – Jesus Christ our Lord

IV. The Recipients (1:5b-7)

- A. Called From Among All the Gentiles (1:5b)**
 1. The General Call of God. (Rev. 22:27; John 3:16)
 2. The Effectual Call of God. (John 6:37-40, 44)

3. We were called to be God's special people, to be the recipients of His love, grace and mercy. (1 Peter 2:7-10; Ephesians 2:1-10). God predetermined that those who believe and accept His Son will be saved but that those who do not believe and reject His Son will stumble and fall. Peter did not deny human responsibility; he emphasized that people are guilty before God if they fail to believe.
4. The bottom line is, if we are saved, it's because God has called us to Himself and enabled us to accept His offer of salvation. (Ephesians 1:3-6; Romans 8:28-30)

B. Called to the Obedience that Comes from Faith (1:5b)

1. Both love for God and faith in God manifest themselves in obedience to God.
2. Obedience to the Lord's commands is one of the primary evidences that we are, in fact, disciples of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20; James 2:14-26)
3. Genuine, saving faith produces works of obedience to His teachings and commands.
4. If we are not seeking to obey His commands, then we should not flatter ourselves by saying that we are "saved"!

C. Called to Belong to Jesus Christ (1:6)

1. The Lord called us to Himself, not just to *believe* in Him, but to *belong* to Him.
2. When we place our faith in Jesus to be our Savior, we become His precious possession—we belong to Him! (Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22)
3. Who holds the title deed of your life?

D. Called to Be Loved by God (1:7)

1. God is love. (1 John 4:8, 16)
2. Romans 5:8 – "God *proves* His love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." (*NRSV*)
3. "Whenever we think that God's love for us depends on our behavior or spiritual success, we put ourselves in a hopeless situation because we can never be good enough to deserve God's love. As Paul later explains in this letter, God's love precedes everything. All of our attempts to earn his love will fail. That's because perfect love would require a perfect effort, clearly beyond us." (*Life Application Commentary Series*)
4. God's unfailing love. (Psalm 6:4; 32:10; 33:16-19)

E. Called to Be Saints (1:7)

1. The Bible says that every believer in Jesus Christ is a saint. We don't become saints by performing miracles or by being good people. God declares us to be saints when we put our faith in Christ. (e.g. Philippians 1:1)
2. Saint = a holy one. The challenge of the Word is to live up to our high calling! (1 Peter 1:14-16) Children reflect the character and nature of their father.

F. Called to Receive God's Grace and Peace (1:7)

1. Grace – God's undeserved favor and blessing. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
2. Peace – peace with God (Romans 5:1-2) and the peace of God (Philippians 4:7).

G. Called to Call Others (1:1, 5)