

YOUR DIVINE CALLING

Romans 1:5-7

Introduction:

- Have you been called by God?
- What is that calling?
- What does it mean to be called?

We are called by the Savior (6)

- The most neutral translation is by the NASB & KJV
 - ...you also are the called **of** Jesus Christ
 - 1. This may mean that “the called” b_____ to Jesus Christ
 - ...you also are called **to belong to** Jesus Christ (NIV)
 - 2. This may mean that the calling is b_____ Jesus Christ
 - ...you also are those called **by** Jesus Christ
- The context favors #2
 - 1. Verse 5 – Paul refers to receiving g_____ and apostleship through Jesus Christ
 - a. Acts 26:16 – Paul’s testimony of Jesus’ words to him
 - I have appeared to you to appoint you a minister and a witness*
 - b. Just as Jesus called Paul to grace and to apostleship, so the Roman Christians are also called by Jesus Christ
 - 2. If the Roman Christians are called by Jesus, it follows that all b_____ have been called by Jesus.
- One aspect of the calling is a call to salvation (Lk 5:32)
 - I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance*
 - 1. No one can be saved apart from the intervention of God
 - a. I Cor 2:14 – in the natural state, every human:
 - cannot a_____ the things of God
 - cannot u_____ the things of God
 - b. Is 53:6 – in the natural state, every human:
 - wanders like a s_____
 - turns to his o_____ way, which is away from God
 - 2. The Bible teaches that Jesus must supernaturally intervene for a person to be saved – have you thanked Him for saving you?

We are called to be saints (5,7)

- When a person responds to Jesus’ calling in faith, their status is changed from a s_____ to a s_____
 - 1. The word saint is literally, “h_____ one”
 - 2. The word “saint” or “holy” has the basic meaning as “one who is set a_____ for a specific purpose”
 - a. If you put money into an envelope marked “groceries”, that money has been set apart from your other money for the purpose of buying groceries.
 - b. The temple prostitutes of Paul’s day were called saints because they were set apart from the world to enhance the w_____ of a god through sexual union.
 - c. Paul uses this term “saint” to refer to believers as being set apart from the world to serve God’s p_____.
- Paul’s was called by Jesus to serve God by bringing the gospel message to a_____ the **Gentiles** (KJV – **nations**)

1. The words in bold translates the Greek word ethnos, where we get our word e_____.
 2. This refers not to countries, but to people g_____ .
- Just as the Roman Christians were called to serve God's purposes, so are all believers, regardless of spiritual maturity
1. I Cor 1:2 – ...*saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*
 2. What specific purpose has Jesus called you to serve?
 - a. God has uniquely g_____ you with a spiritual ability (Eph 4:1-12; Rom 12:4-8)
 - b. If you live in obedience God will l_____ you into using those abilities
 - 1) Pastor Mike used the gifts of teaching and leading long before becoming a "pastor."
 - At 16 years old – lead youth in local church
 - At 17 years old – lead youth in his community spanning all denominations
 - In college – led Bible studies; took on pastoral duties in a small church
 - 2) How you use your gifts may vary greatly, but you will always be serving God's purposes.

Conclusion – personalize these verses

I, _____, have been called to salvation by Jesus Christ, and have been called as a saint, set apart from the world to serve His purposes.

This is your divine calling