

THE CALL IS FOR YOU

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED according to His PURPOSE." Romans 8:28 (NIV)

One of the most beloved verses in the Bible is Romans 8:28. It's a verse you've probably heard many times, maybe hundreds of times. It's one of the great promises of the Bible. It says this: "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him..." Usually we stop right there. We leave off the second half of the verse and we say what a great promise. "We know that in all things... Not just the good things in life, but even in the bad things, the ugly things, the terrible, the tragic things of life. In all things God works for the good of those who love him..." It doesn't say they're good. He can bring good out of even bad for those who love God. Usually we stop the verse right there. But the rest of the verse says this: "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.. Circle "called" and circle "purpose" and draw a line between them, because calling and purpose go together. Do you reject calls when the number is unregistered on your phone? I do sometimes! But what if someone who called was to bring the news that you inherited \$50 million dollars and you decided not to answer? I guess you will regret that for life. But what if God is the one calling you and the news He brings is way greater than that \$50 million dollars and you opted to ignore, or rejected his call? You will regret that forever. Your calling is connected to your purpose and that's what we're going to look at for the next six weeks.



WHAT I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY LIFE'S CALLING

1. _____
"God, by his grace through Christ, has called you to become his people." Galatians 1:6 (NCV)

"He has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of any-thing we have done but because of his own purpose and grace." 2 Timothy 1:9 (NIV)

2. _____
"Before the two boys were born, God told Rebekah, 'The older will serve the younger.' This was before the boys had done anything good or bad. God said this so that the one chosen would be chosen because of God's own plan. He was chosen because he was the one God wanted to call, not because of anything he did." Romans 9:11 (NCV)

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

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4. _____
"It pleased God in his kindness to choose me and call me, even before I was born! What undeserved mercy!" Galatians 1:15 (NLT)

"Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you." Jeremiah 1:5 (MSG)

"I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born!" Isaiah 44:2

"By calling me into his service, Jesus has judged me trustworthy, even though I used to be a blasphemer and a persecutor and contemptuous. Mercy, however, was shown me, because while I lacked faith, I acted in ignorance." 1 Timothy 1:12-13 (NJB)

5. _____
"God's gifts and his calling are irrevocable." Romans 11:29 (NIV)

"God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn." Romans 11:29 (NLT)

6. _____
"We are all one Body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future hope." Ephesians 4:4 (NLT)

"Brothers and sisters, you are holy partners in a heavenly calling." Hebrews 3:1 (GW)

7. _____
"I now urge you to live the life to which God called you." Ephesians 4:1 (NCV)

"That is why we always pray for you, asking our God to help you live the kind of life he called you to live. We pray that with his power God will help you do the good things you want, and perform the works that come from your faith." 1 Thessalonians 1:11 (NCV)

"The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NIV)

8. _____
"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14 (NIV)

"Live the kind of life that pleases God, who calls you to share in his own Kingdom and glory." 1 Thessalonians 2:12 (TEV)