

The Called
Part II
The Hope of His Calling
February 26, 2017
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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Last week we learned about the “called”; they are those whom God has bid to come forth unto Him and who have responded to that invitation by placing their trust in Jesus Christ’s death, burial and resurrection to save them from their sins.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are **the called** according to *his* purpose.

The called are they to whom God has promised, based on some simple and easy conditions, to make everything that happens, everything that comes into your life; even things that you couldn’t possibly call good ...to work together with everything else He is doing to turn out for your good in the end.

As we read on in this passage, we learn even more about what an incredible privilege it is to be invited by the Lord to become one of His Children.

Romans 8:29-33
29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his

Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

Wow, who wouldn't want to know that God is for you; that He is always on your side!

Often times when people hear the word **predestinate**, they get all controversial and upset and confused - and some even try to blame God for who goes to hell.

The word means to *predetermine* or to *prepare ahead of time*.

How sad the controversy over this; because the doctrine of predestination is one of the simplest truths in the Bible to understand.

God calls everyone; the fact that you are here is proof positive that God is calling you.

We know that God reveals Himself to everyone.

Romans 1:18-20

Now that you have been saved, do you think God expects too much of you?

Are His commandments hard or burdensome?

There you go; you've heard it from the Lord.

You've heard it from your friends.

What will it be? Are you just going to go on like you are in bondage to sin and end up in hell?

...Or, are you going to let Jesus set you free and give you a life of peace, blessing and joy?

You have to choose.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

We know that God bids everyone to come unto Him.

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

It is ultimately your free will choice to respond to God's call; you will choose Christ or you will reject Him; and the responsibility for that choice you will bear alone.

Because He is God, He already knows who will and who will not trust Him. That is called **foreknowledge**.

For those who will, God has predestinated - He has prepared ahead of time - many wonderful things for their future.

That is really all there is to it; it is really quite simple ...and practical.

What parent doesn't want to prepare ahead of time for their children to have a great future?

This bit of review now brings us to today's text.

In Ephesians Chapter One, the Bible expands greatly on what God has predestinated, or prepared ahead of time, for us who are **the called**.

In Chapter One, when we get down to Verse 18, God begins to explain something called the "hope of his calling".

Ephesians 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is **the hope of his calling**, and what *are* the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Again, we need to look up and understand the Bible word here because it is much different from the word we use today.

In a drought, we *hope* it rains. We *hope* the hurricane misses us. He *hopes* she says yes when he asks her for a date.

For us, hope is basically - and usually - a wish.

But the Bible word "hope" is different.

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1. **1 Corinthians 10:31** Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

2. **Ephesians 3:20-21**

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Conclusion:

This is only a snapshot of The Hope, "the expectation" of His calling.

Truly, Jesus is calling; He is calling some of you right now.

You have seen what to expect as stated in the Scriptures; it is hard to believe that anyone would reject something so wonderful.

Now let's see if we can get another witness for you.

Most of you have answered His call.

Are you glad you did?

Has there ever been a day you were sorry you trusted Jesus to save you?

2. However, God does not expect you not to ever sin; since, after all, He did not save or change your flesh.

3. God does, however, expect you to confess your sins when you do.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

D. God expects you to worship Him.

1. God expects us to faithfully assemble together.
2. **Hebrews 10:24-25**
 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

2. Worship is commanded in **five formal acts** in the New Testament.

1. Singing His praise.
2. Corporate prayer.
3. Participation in the preaching of The Word.
4. Tithing and giving.
5. The Lord's Supper.

E. God expects you to bring Him glory!

From ἔλπω *elrō* which is a primary word (to *anticipate*, usually with pleasure); *expectation* (abstract or concrete) or *confidence*: - faith, hope.

This word is an expectation; actually even more; it is a **confident expectation**.

A Bible hope is sure and solid and guaranteed; just not here yet.

God wants you to know the hope or the expectation of His calling; He wants you to know what to expect.

Some of you know God is and has been calling you; yet you have not yet responded to His invitation; you perhaps still have not trusted Jesus to save you.

Maybe you are procrastinating because you just don't know what to expect. We have already read that God want you to know what to expect. So...

I. What can you expect if you say "Yes" to the Lord?
 (Let me say here that this list is very long. I will barely scratch the surface in the time we have today.)

A. Your spirit will be made alive.

1. **Ephesians 2:1-5**

1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

2. **John 5:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is **passed from death unto life.**

B. Your understanding will be opened.

1. The blindness you don't even realize you have will be removed.

Ephesians 4:17-18

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

2. Your new living spirit will hunger for the knowledge of Him.

Colossians 1:9-10

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye

2. The first thing God commands you to do AFTER you are saved is to be baptized.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

3. Why? There are several reasons; one big one is that baptism adds you to the Church, which is His Body.

Acts 2:47 ... And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

4. The Church; which is God's vehicle on earth to carry out His will and of which Jesus is the head.

Ephesians 1:22-23

22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,
23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

5. The biggest reason to be baptized I suppose is simply because He commands it.

Acts 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...

C. One you may find very strange is that God expects you to sin.

1. God, of course, does not want us to sin.

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what *are* the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
 19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Like I said, this just scratches the surface; you can expect all this and more; so...

II. What does the Lord expect of you?

A. *Salvation is a free gift.*

1. **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God:*

2. **Romans 3:24** Being justified **freely** by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

3. Salvation is free with no strings attached!

4. But that does not mean there is nothing God expects of you once you become that new creation in Christ.

B. God is now your Father, your Master; He is God; He expects you to obey Him.

(And may I add, for your own good, you really should get used to the idea.)

1. For one, God expects you to be baptized.

might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

3. Your desires will change.

a. **Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

b. New and righteous desires will take the place of many old ones.

C. *You will live under a whole new set of rules.*

1. Many times people think, "If I get saved, I'm going to have to live under all those rules."

2. When in fact, it is just the opposite!

3. If you are not saved, you are living under all those rules you dread right now.

4. There are only two choices; you are either **under the curse of God's law - or - you are in Christ.**

4. You are living under the curse of God's law right now; sin has placed you there.

5. **Galatians 3:10** For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

6. Were you to face the Lord right now, you would be judged according to the law that is written in these 66 books according to your works. **(And you are not going to like the verdict.)**

7. To those in Christ, God says:

Romans 6:14 ...for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

8. Your new rules; otherwise known as the "New Testament commands of Christ" are easy; they are not a burden.

a. **Matthew 11:28-30**

28 **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

29 **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**

30 **For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.**

b. **1 John 5:3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are **not grievous**.

D. You will experience peace.

1. **Ephesians 2:11-15**

11 Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

2. **Philippians 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

E. You will experience genuine freedom for the first time.

John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

F. You will experience His promises, His power, His presence and much, much more!

Ephesians 1:18-19