

The High Calling of God

Keith Dixon
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Gray

Introduction

1. Philippians 3:13-14
2. There are different kinds of calls
 - a. One may receive an invitation to attend a social event, or a wedding
 - b. One may receive a special summons to jury duty, or government service
3. God calls or summons men to be saved Acts 2: 39-40
4. An appreciation of God's call will secure a response to the Lord's invitation

II Discussion

1. The nature of the call
 - a. It is a heavenly call Hebrews 3:1
 - b. It is a holy calling 2 Timothy 1:9
 - c. It is a high calling Philippians 3:13-14
2. Men are called
 - a. Out of darkness 1 Peter 2:9
 - b. To be saints 1 Corinthians 1:2
 - c. Into fellowship with Christ 1 Corinthians 1:9
 - i. We have fellowship in the Lord's Word 1 Corinthians 3:9
 - ii. We have joint participation in the Lord's suffering 1 Peter 4:13
 - iii. We have fellowship in the inheritance Romans 8:14-17
 - d. Unto a vocation Ephesians 4:1
 - e. In hope Ephesians 4:4
 - i. There is a hope associated with the Christian's call Ephesians 1:18
 - ii. The hope of the Christians is a contrast to the hopelessness of the world Ephesians 2:12
 - f. Unto His eternal glory 1 Peter 5:10
 - g. To make our calling and election sure 2 Peter 1:10
3. How is one called?
 - a. Is it a direct call from heaven?
 - i. If so why do not all men receive this call? Acts 10:34-35
 - ii. If so why are men lost Matthew 7:13-14
 - b. One is called by the Gospel 2 Thessalonians 2:14
 - i. There is an invitation given Matthew 11:28-30
 - ii. We must realize that we are lost and need to answer this call
 - iii. We must understand the plan John 8:32
 - iv. Then be willing to obey this plan 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

III Conclusion

1. There is a prize for answering this call Philippians 3:13-14
2. Will you answer this call by responding to heaven's call

Source: Denton Lecture Philippians 2000; Coffman's commentary on Philippians; old sermon 1994