



Decade of Availability Serving Jesus

Paul launches his letter to the Romans focusing on his call to service and our call to salvation and life in Jesus. Have you answered His call?

A. Paul's Calling vv. 1-5

1. Called to be: v. 1 *Slave — Sent — Separated*

a. Servant: The Greek word 'doulos' literally means 'slave.' A slave was the property of an owner. Paul was NOT a slave to any ...but he thought of his Christian existence and experience this way. This is also the main implication of our confession that "Jesus is Lord." (*See Rom 10:9-10 side bar*)

b. Apostle: Literally means to be sent! This was both Paul's call on the road to Damascus (*Acts 9*) and more generally as a preeminent spiritual gift (*1 Cor 12:28-29; Eph 4:11*).

c. Separated: Slave, sent and now separated. Paul's life was separated (prime focus) to the Gospel of God.

2. Called because vv. 2-5

a. The promise of the holy scriptures: v. 2 Before the New Testament writings, the OT prophets were a main source of the Gospel. Jesus used *Isa 61:1-2*, Paul in *Acts 13:32-35*.

b. Jesus was both man and God: v. 3 Paul affirms the two natures of Jesus (man and God).

c. The Holy Spirit and the resurrection: v. 4 Paul acknowledges the power of the Holy Spirit in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

d. To the nations: v. 5 The word 'grace' (charis) here means the gift of 'apostleship' to be sent to the Gentiles.

B. Our Calling vv. 6-7

1. The called of Jesus of Christ: v. 6 All are 'called' to belong to Christ. God calls sinners through the gospel (*2 Thes 2:14*), which is his power unto salvation (*1:16*).

The message of the cross draws all men to Christ (*John 12:32*).

Faith comes through the written Word (*John 20:31*) when that **Word is faithfully preached** (*10:13-17 side bar*). Sinners' hearts are hardened, and without the powerful message of the gospel none would turn to God (*John 6:44-45; Heb 4:12*).

The sinner still has free will either to answer the call or to resist it (*Isa 65:1-7; Matt 23:37; Acts 7:51; Rev 22:17*).

2. Beloved of God and called to be saints: v. 7 The 'beloved' are ALL people—for God so loved the world! He does NOT pre-determine some to hell and some to heaven—He loves all and desires that all would come to repentance. (*2 Pet 3:9 side bar*)

The saints: The word "saints" means simply "holy ones," and the word "holy" means "separated" or "set apart" in a special relation to God. We have been separated from the "dominion of darkness" (*Col 1:13; 1 Pet 2:9*) and from "**the present evil age**" (*Gal 1:4*), and we have been placed by God's grace **within his kingdom** (*Col 1:13*) and family (*2 Cor 6:17-18*).

We are saints, and therefore we should live like saints! (*Romans 12:1-2*)

Romans 1:1-7 (KJV)

1 PAUL, a servant of Jesus Christ, **called** to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures.)

3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

6 Among whom are ye also the **called** of Jesus Christ:

7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, **called** to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:9-10 (KJV)

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13-17 (KJV)

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. **14** How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? **17** So then **faith** cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2 Peter 3:9 (KJV)

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that **all should come to repentance**.