
The Christian Calling

Opening Remarks:

Scripture makes use of a variety of terms in making reference to Christians.

Reference 1: Christians - Acts 26:28; 1Peter 4:16; Acts 11:26

Reference 2: Nazarenes - Acts 24:5; Matthew 2:23; Mark 14:67

Reference 3: Those belonging to the Way - Acts 9:1-2; 19:8-9, 23; 24:14, 22

Reference 4: Disciples - Matthew 10:42; 10:1; Acts 6:1, 11:26

Reference 5: Believers - Acts 5:14; 1Tim 4:12; 1Cor 14:22

Reference 6: Saints - 1Cor 1:2 (Phil 4:21); Psalm 30:4; Matthew 27:52

Significance of Terminology:

Statement of Purpose:

Addressing Common Obstacles

- Obstacle 1: Ignorance
- Obstacle 2: Confusion
- Obstacle 3: Rebellion
- Obstacle 4: Presumption

Thee-Part Examination of the Scripture

Part 1: Old Testament Background - Gen 4:6

[See also - Gen 12:8; 13:4-7; Exo 2:23-25 (Psa 81:7; 107:6); Psa 4:3; 55:16; 61:2, 116:2, 13, 17; 119:46; 141:1; 145:18; Jer 33:3; Zech 13:9]

Part 2: New Covenant Reality - 1Corinthians 1:2

[See also - Acts 9:14, 21; 1Peter 1:17; 2Tim 2:22; Romans 10:12, 14]

Part 3: An Apostolic Testimony - Acts 22:16

[Background Texts - Acts 7:54-60; 6:13; Deu 13:9, 10; 17:7; 19:16-21]

Significant Theological Points

Point 1: Calling on the Lord embodies an acknowledgment of the impotence and inadequacy of personal attempts at deliverance.

Point 2: Calling on the Lord involves both turning away from self to another and entreating the other for the help necessary for one's deliverance from their present condition.

Point 3: Calling on the Lord is an exclusive activity that precludes calling upon any other.

Point 4: Calling on the Lord is principally an internal posture of the heart rather than an external verbalization of words or engagement in activity.

Resolutions for Life-Change

Life-Change Resolution 1: Resolve to set your mind on and consider the reality, beauty and unending glory of the One on whom alone you are ever commanded to call.

Life-Change Resolution 2: Resolve to regularly consider the gracious privilege that is freely and mercifully yours to call on such a one as the Lord.

Life-Change Resolution 3: Resolve to regularly consider the reality, the effectiveness, the fullness, and the permanence of what actually transpires when you call upon the name of the Lord.

Life-Change Resolution 4: Resolve to be ever broken and brought to confession over great level of shame and guilt that is rightfully and personally yours in considering how seldom and infrequently you in fact do call upon him.

Life-Change Resolution 5: Resolve to consider and respond to the amazing and abundant grace of God as he summons you today and every day to call on his name all over again.