

The Called
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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

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.

There is, without question, a lot of evil in this world. Our world is filled with sickness and pain and poverty and crime and atrocities of every sort. No, everything that happens does not work together for good! But God, however, is able to change this for a select group of people; actually God refers to them as an “elect” group of people. You know how the Bible talks about the ability and willingness of God to financially bless those who cheerfully give to the Lord?

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8 **And God is able** to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

Do you believe that God is able to do that?

Many, if not most of you, already know this by experience. Well, if you are one of “the called”, this same God is also able 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 good in the end.

Do you believe this as well? The big question of the day is; “How can I make sure that I am one those “called” God is talking about?”

Romans 8:28 says “to them who are **the called**”.

Let’s turn that into a question; **who are the called?**

To understand this truth, like most others, you must start with the words themselves. As we read on in this passage, things really get interesting.

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?

for you today? The message from the Lord for you, His child, can be summed up in just four words:

“Relax, I’ve got this!”

God has known about your problems since before the world began and He has the solution already worked out.

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

In verse 30, you’ve got a Greek verb translated “called”.

kaleō

kal-eh'-o

Akin to the base of [G2753](#); to call (properly aloud, but used in a variety of applications, directly or otherwise): - bid, call (forth), (whose, whose sur-) name (was [called]).

This word means **to bid** or **to call forth**.

If I said, “Brother Mark, come up here and lead us in prayer;” that’s **kaleo**. In verse 28, there are those referred to as “the called”. This Greek word is a noun.

klētos

klay-tos'

From the same as [G2821](#); *invited*, that is, *appointed*, or (specifically) a *saint*: - called.

These are **the appointed ones**; also referred to as the “**chosen**” or the “**elect**”. So how does one get to be one of the appointed ones, one of the elect? Does God just arbitrarily choose some while ignoring others? Some out there teach that He does.

Romans 9:14 What shall we say then? *Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.*

No, there is no unrighteousness with God!

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

3 Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

4 *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

No, God has not arbitrarily chosen some while ignoring others; God has **called** (the verb) everyone.

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.

John 7:37 ...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

In Scripture after Scripture Jesus calls everyone, “**whosoever will**”, to come unto Him. Those who respond to His call go on to become the appointed ones, the called, the chosen, the elect. And guess what, God knows who will respond and who won’t; furthermore He has known it since before the foundation of the world. For those whom God foreknew would trust Jesus and be saved, He did prepare ahead of time, many wonderful things.

sins - and apply His predetermined plan of action to our situation.

4. God can and will take the worst mess you’ve ever gotten yourself into and turn it into something good for your life.

B. There are, however, some conditions on your part.

1. You must be one of **the called**.

Are you? Are you certain you are one of God’s children? Do you know when you trusted Jesus to save you?

2. You must **love God**. Do you?

Remember, **this love is not just a feeling**; this love is what you do.

3. You must be “**according to His purpose**”.

a. **Accord is agreement**; having a common goal.

b. His purpose is His glory!

c. God’s purpose is His Glory! Are you dedicated to His glory?

Conclusion:

If you can be sure you are saved; that you love God (which means also loving each other); and that you are genuinely dedicated to bring Him glory... Then you can also be sure that no matter what kind of problem you are facing, no matter what kind of struggle you are in; the Lord has already been there and the solution is already in the works. When it comes right down to it, the only thing you need to worry about is making sure that the Lord gets all the glory. What is the message the Lord has

4. God took one whom He foreknew would hate Him and hardened his heart again and again until His mighty power was demonstrated and declared throughout the whole earth.

Another question arises:

D. *Why does God, who is sovereign, put up with all this continual evil like He does?*

1. Why doesn't He just end it?

2. **Romans 9:22-24**

22 *What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:*

23 *And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,*

24 *Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?*

3. The reason is you ...and all those others who are coming to Jesus even as we speak.

This brings us to:

III. The Product.

A. *The product is goodness.*

1. **Romans 8:28** *And we know that all things work together for good...*

2. Goodness that can only be attributed to the Lord.

3. God will take our sicknesses, our unemployment, our family crises, our financial crises; even our poor choices; yes - even our

One of which was that, beginning with our spirit, We would be conformed to the image of His Son Jesus. Another is that, based on certain conditions, He would arrange, ahead of time, for all things to work together for our good. If you have responded to the Lord's call, if you have placed your trust in Jesus to save you from your sins; there is really nothing in life that you have to worry about. Read it again:

Romans 8:29-33

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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.

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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.

What this means is that no matter what you are going through, God has already been there; He has already prepared the solution and, based on a couple of conditions, all of it is going to work together for good. Why would God do all of this? What is it all for? What is He trying to accomplish? Here are some things that will help you understand:

I. The Principle.

A. First of all, God.

1. **Colossians 1:16** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
2. Yes, God loves us and He is good to us and He does so much for us that it often seems like we are the center of His attention.
3. Wrong...it's all about God, not about us.

B. It is God:

1. Who is righteous:
Psalm 145:17 The LORD *is* righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.
2. Who is Holy:
Psalm 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God *is* holy.
3. Who is sovereign:
Ephesians 1:10-11
10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:
11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him **who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**
3. God does what God wants to do and is accountable to no one.

4. God is the judge of man; man does not get to judge God.

II. The Purpose.

A. God's purpose is His glory.

1. **Isaiah 43:7** *Even* every one called by my name: for **I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.**
2. **Ephesians 3:21** **Unto him be glory** in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.
3. You were created for His glory.

B. His first choice.

1. That you would respond to His call and become one of His precious children.
2. That you then would become a vessel unto honor to be used for His glory.
3. That you would love Him and dedicate yourself to His purpose.

C. His second choice.

1. Those who reject Him - as well as those who receive Him - will bring Him glory.
2. Remember Pharaoh and all the plagues God brought against Egypt? He definitely rejected the Lord.
3. **Romans 9:17-18**
17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, *Even* for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.
18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will *have mercy*, and whom he will he **hardeneth**.