

“The Hope Of His Calling”
Ephesians 1:18

Introduction:

1. In Our Series On “Our Blessed Hope” As Christians:
 - We Are Now Looking At:
 - The Seven “Points Of Hope” That We Find:
 - In The New Testament!
 - We Have Already Explored:
 - Our Hope Of The Gospel:
 - Colossians 1:23 - “Be not moved away from the hope of the gospel!”
 - Our Hope Of Salvation:
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:8 - “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation!”
 - Our Hope Of Eternal Life:
 - Titus 1:2 - “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began!”
2. The Next Point Of Hope:
 - That We Will Look At Tonight Is:
 - The “Hope Of His Calling” - Which We Find In Ephesians Chapter 1:
 - Where In His Initial Prayer Of This Letter, Paul Writes – In 1:16-19 – That He “Cease[s] not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; / 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: / 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what 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!”
 - The Key Phrase Is Found In:
 - 1:18 - “That Ye May Know What Is The Hope Of His Calling!”
 - Paul Understood That:
 - The More You & I “Know” About “His Calling” In Our Lives As Christians – The More Hope You & I Will Have As Christians!
 - So For Tonight:
 - We Are Going To Look More Closely At:
 - The “Hope Of His Calling!”

1. *What Is His Calling About?*

- **IE:** Remember When There Were No Cell Phones? - Was Outside Playing As A Boy - Being Called To Supper - Different Than It Is Today! Mom “Called” Me To Supper! From Where I Was (And Whatever I Was Doing) To Where She Was! And It Wasn’t Necessarily For Her Benefit - But For Mine!
 - In A Similar Way - The “Hope Of His Calling” Is:
 - A Calling Of Sinners By God To Himself:
 - Not For His Benefit - But For Ours!
 - And He Does This Primarily Through His Word & The Gospel!
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 - “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: / Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - Now - When We Look At What God’s Calling Is All About - There Are Two Basic Calls By God:
 - An External Call & An Internal Call!
- The External Call:
 - Of God - Is A General Call:
 - And A General Invitation To Every Sinner That May Hear The Gospel Message!
 - Acts 17:30 - Paul’s Message In Athens - “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent!”
 - So - As We See In Paul’s Message:
 - This General Call Is:
 - A Call That Is Wide!

- It Is For “All Men Every Where!”
 - It Applies To Every Person!
 - It Applies In Every Place!
- And It Is God’s Genuine Desire:
 - For The Message Of His Gospel To Spread All Throughout The World!
- And That Is Why Jesus Himself:
 - At The End Of His Personal Ministry Here On Earth Issued The Great Commission To His Disciples!
- Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: / Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen!”
- Mark 16:15-16 - “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. / He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned!”
 - And So - What We Also See From These Verses - Is That This General Call Is Also:
- A Call Through The Word!
 - Through The Word Of God & His Gospel!
 - Through Its Preaching & Teaching & Proclamation!
 - It Is A Word About Christ!
 - Life / Death / Burial / Resurrection!
 - It Is A Word Of Invitation!
 - Repent & Believe!
 - Turn & Trust!
 - It Is A Word Of Promise!
 - Pardon / Eternal Life!
 - These Are The Elements:
 - Of This External, Gospel Call!
 - Necessary!
 - Romans 10:14 - “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?”
 - Romans 10:17 - “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!”
- This Is The External Call Of God!
 - And It Is A Call That Every One Of Us Here:
 - Has Been Given & Have Heard With Our Ears!
 - And It Is A Great Privilege To Hear This Call! **IE:** An Even Greater Privilege Than To Hear The President At One Of His Rallies!
 - But With This Great Privilege:
 - Comes Great Responsibility!
 - We Need To Truly Heed With Our Hearts What We Have Heard With Our Ears!
 - And Then - We Need To Broadcast God’s Call:
 - Far & Wide!
 - **IE:** As Farmers Used To “Broadcast” Seed Into The Ground & As The Radio Now “Broadcasts” Sound Throughout The World!
 - God Has Given His People The Responsibility & The Opportunity To Propagate His Call:
 - “To All Men – Every Where!”
 - But What We Find In The Scripture Is That In Addition To This External Call - There Is Also:
- The Internal Call:
 - Of God - Which Is A Special Call:
 - And An Effectual Call To Those Whom He Has Chosen To Be His Children!
 - Romans 8:29-30 - “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. / 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!”
 - The Call Described In These Verses Is:
 - A Special Call:
 - That Applies Only To Believers In Jesus Christ!

- Only Those Who Have Experienced This Internal Call Have The Promise Of:
 - Being Justified By God & Eventually Being Glorified By God In Heaven Someday!
- And This Internal / Special / Effectual Call:
 - Is Absolutely Necessary Because Noone Can Respond To God's External Call:
 - By Themselves & On Their Own!
 - Acts 28:25-27 - In Rome - Paul To The Jews - "Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, / Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: / For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them!"
 - This Is The Problem Of Every Sinner! To The Call Of God Through The Gospel:
 - Our Eyes Are Blind!
 - Our Ears Are Deaf!
 - Our Hearts Are Callous!
 - We Are "Dead In Trespasses & Sins!"
 - We Need Something More! We Need:
 - A Spiritual Call:
 - An Internal, Effectual Call:
 - By God Himself – Through His Spirit!
 - In Acts 16:14 - There Was - "A certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul!"
 - The Lord Alone Is The One Who Can:
 - Open Our Hearts!
 - Open Our Eyes!
 - Open Our Ears!
 - And "Quicken Us" To Hear His Call Of Grace!
 - And The Lord Alone Is The One Who Can Then:
 - Enable You To Respond:
 - To His Word / Gospel Through Faith & Repentance!
 - This Is The Internal Call Of God!
 - And In Order For A Person – Any Person:
 - To Know "The Hope Of His Calling":
 - They Must Experience Both Of These Callings!
 - And This Is Why When:
 - You Propagate:
 - The External Call Of God:
 - You Keep Praying For:
 - The Internal Call Of God:
 - To Work In A Person's Heart!
 - Keep Praying For The Lord To:
 - Open Their Hearts / Eyes / Ears:
 - And To Effectually Call Them "Out Of Darkness Into His Marvelous Light!" (1 Peter 2:9)
 - This Is What The Calling Of God Is All About!
 - Both An External Call & An Internal Call:
 - And To Be Saved - Need To Experience Both!

2. ***What Is His Calling Like?***

- With This Question - We Have God's Internal Call:
 - In View - What Is His Special Call Like:
 - For Those Who Are Saved?
 - Several Descriptions:
- It Is A Holy Calling!
 - 2 Timothy 1:8-9 - "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; / Who hath saved us,

and called us with ***an holy calling***, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began!”

- By God’s Grace - He Calls Us:

- By His Holiness & To His Holiness!

- Before His Special Call - We Wanted Nothing To Do With His Holiness! Now

- His Holiness Is Our Greatest Delight & Desire! “O I Want To Be Like Jesus!”

- It Is A High Calling!

- Philippians 3:13-14 - “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, / I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus!”

- By God’s Grace - He Calls Us:

- With A “High” Calling - An “Upward” Calling!

- He Calls Us In Order To Exalt Us Far Above Where We Are & What We Deserve!

- 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 - “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: / But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; / And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: / That no flesh should glory in his presence!”

- God’s Calling & God’s Choice Are Inseparable!

- And Are All Because Of His Grace & Ultimately For His Glory!

- It Is A Heavenly Calling!

- Hebrews 3:1 - “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus!”

- By God’s Grace - He Calls Us:

- From His Home In Heaven!

- To His Home In Heaven!

- So - When You Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ:

- His Home Becomes Your Home!

- John 14:2 - “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you!”

- It Is An Honest Calling!

- Romans 11:29 - “For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance!”

- By God’s Grace - When He Calls You:

- With This Internal, Special Call:

- It Will Be Effectual In Your Heart And Life!

- It Means That:

- He Will Never Take His Call Back:

- From You!

- Philippians 1:6 - “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ!”

- And How Did God “Begin” His “Good Work” In You?

- Through His Call!

- His Holy, High, Heavenly & Honest Calling!

- And This Special Call:

- By Which He Makes The External Call Effective In Your Heart:

- Is “Immutable” And Unchanging!

- Even As He Is Immutable And Unchanging!

- “It Is A Call That Is Not Subject To Change And That Is Never Withdrawn!” (Berkhof)

- And This Is What the Calling Of God Is Like!

Conclusion:

1. Is It Any Wonder Then That Paul Prays:

- In Ephesians 1:18 - “That Ye May Know What Is The Hope Of His Calling!”

- God’s Calling Gives You Hope!

- **IE:** As I Would Be Filled With Great Hope When My Mom Would “Call” Me Home For Supper

- Hope For A Meal That Would Be Delicious And Satisfying - So God’s Call Will Fill You With

More & More Hope As You Realize & Come To “Know” Just How Amazing God’s Call Is!

- And Even More;
- 2. When You Head Over To:
 - Ephesians 4:4 - You Read This:
 - “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling!”
 - So - It Is Not Just:
 - The “Hope Of **His** Calling!”
 - It Can Become:
 - The “Hope Of **Your** Calling!”
 - A Personal Calling By The Lord That Leads To A Personal Hope In The Lord!
 - This Means - You Can “Know” That:
 - By His Grace:
 - God Has Chosen **You!**
 - God Has Called **You!**
 - And God Is In The Process Of Changing **You!**
 - “To Be Conformed Into The Image Of His Son!” (Romans 8:29)
 - How Can You “Know” This?
 - Through A Living, Christ-Focused Faith!
 - Because - “Faith Is The Substance Of Things Hoped For, The Evidence Of Things Not Seen!” (Hebrews 11:1)
 - And Through Faith:
- 3. The “Hope Of **His** Calling” Becomes:
 - The “Hope Of **Your** Calling!”
 - And Your Hope Is That One Day:
 - You Will Be At Home In Heaven:
 - With God Himself!
 - To Enjoy All The Bountiful Blessings To Which He Has Called You!

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