

## YOUR HOLY CALLING

**Greetings:** Good morning.  
Welcome !  
My privilege !  
We are a blessed people to be sanctified by the Truth, God's Word.  
*We are a church body truly growing in our intimacy with our Lord.*

>Today we will be looking at the passage from 2nd Timothy 1:9  
**Special passage to me personally**

> In this verse, we will see that Paul is alluding to the doctrine of salvation by God's grace. **Though Timothy was sound doctrinally**, Paul, **may have** included this essential verse as a reminder for Timothy **and for us**.

Let me read it. *God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.*

**Repeat the verse**  
**Do you hear the Gospel? Do you see the M M M**

> Today as we unpack this verse, we will look closely at the three main points.

1. We have a holy calling by God unto salvation.
2. That God's calling is not based on our works.
3. That God has a purpose for our salvation.

**As we look at this passage**, I pray that we will **have a richer appreciation** and understanding of the grace that rescued us from sin and the **incredible privilege** to be **summoned by our Lord to carry out His divine mission here on earth**.

>**Before we get started, I have 3 questions:**

1. Are you a Christian, truly born again and indwelt by the Holy Spirit?
2. How did you become a Christian?
3. Why are you a Christian, What is your purpose **NOW** as a Christian?

**Let's Pray**

**T/S Before we begin, let me provide some context.**

Paul was in prison awaiting execution under Nero. He knew Timothy was in line to carry on the ministry of the church. There was an increase of false prophets, apostasy and persecution. By reading the letter closely, one can see Paul had reason to fear that Timothy was weakening spiritually.

*Read preceding verses to verse 9 see hints of weakening*

**7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was granted to us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,**

Paul thus writes this letter to encourage and strengthen him for the task ahead. In verse 9 he reminds young Timothy that he has a holy calling from God and a divine purpose. **Timothy, be encouraged, for you are a called out, witness and servant!**

**T/S As I stated earlier, we will look at the 3 key points:**

1. What: What is God's holy calling
2. What not: What not is God's holy calling
3. Why: Why God calls

**Title: GOD'S HOLY CALLING**

**Big Idea: A biblical Christian is one who has been specifically saved with God's holy calling for His specific divine purpose.**

## **SERMON**

**T/S Lets now unpack point 1 of this passage, God's holy calling**  
***God, who saved us, and called us, with a holy calling***

**First, let's look briefly at the one who calls and the one who is called.**

### **A. GOD**

**> Great I AM. Has no beginning nor end, Knows all things, He is Creator, Alpha and Omega, Perfect and Righteous in all His ways, He will judge the living and the dead, He came as the Lamb and will return as the Lion, His wrath will be poured on all the wicked and His mercy will be upon His children, To His chosen, He is Father Lord, Savior, Redeemer, and friend. He knows every thought we have and intimately acquainted with all our ways and He has an everlasting love for His adopted children.**

**Deuteronomy 32:4 offers a good description. The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice. Righteous and upright is He.**

## B. US

> **We are the Christians, believers in Christ, redeemed from sin**, former enemies of God and children of wrath, sinners in the worst way by nature, who now are the blessed, beloved saints, **saved with a holy calling by our merciful God by grace through faith**.

**T/S Now, let's look at the holy calling of God.**

When we read the bible in full context, we will see there are actually two kinds of callings.

1. General call 2. Effectual call

**General call:** Is an invitation to believe the Gospel. It goes to all mankind. God invites all mankind to repent and believe. He even commands it. **It is known as the external call that occurs when the gospel is proclaimed.**

**Examples:** N.T.                      **John 3:16,**                      **Matthew 11: 28,**

**Acts 17:30-31** *So having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now proclaiming to mankind that all people everywhere are to repent, because He has set a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all people by raising Him from the dead.*

O.T. **Ezekiel 33:11** *(God) Rather that the wicked turn from his way and live.*  
**Joel 2:13:** *Rend your heat and not your garments. Now return to the Lord.*

**B. Effectual call / Holy call.** This is the call that brings sinners to repentance and faith. It is **the internal call** where the power of the Holy Spirit tears down the veil and allows the Light of the glory God in the face of Jesus be seen. ( 2 Corinthians 4:6 )

**Definition of calling: Kaleo (Greek)** It's an invitation, divine summons.

> **It effects a change**, bringing salvation by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit that ushers in the new heart and transforming one into a new creation.

> **It is a holy calling** because it is a divine summons into fellowship by a holy God to our holy Christ, and it sets us apart from the world and empowers us to live holy.

> **It is from the Father.** *No one can come to Me unless the Father draws them, and Jesus said, all that the Father me gives will come"*

>It is a **personal calling**. You are called by name. **Isaiah 43:1** *I have redeemed you, called you by your name; you are Mine.* ( Zaccheus)

> It is a calling that works in harmony with the outer invitation of the Gospel and the inner movement of the Holy Spirit.

>It's a calling that was determined before time by the sovereign will and kindness of our God. ( Ephesians 1:4 )

>It's a certain calling to secure us; from the time of our election before the foundations of the world, to the calling, to justification, to glorification ( **Romans 8:30**)

> It's a calling that wakes up the dead sinner to receive eternal life.( Ephesians 2:4)

> It is a calling that is irrevocable and sealed the moment you believed with the Holy Spirit. ( Romans 11:29, Ephesians 1:13)

>It is God's call that awakens a dead sinner to a forever worship to the praise of the glory of His grace ( Ephesians 1:6)

**Jesus makes the distinction between the general call and the effectual call.**

**Matthew 22:14**     *"For many are called but few are chosen"*

### **JOHN PIPER VIDEO ( 3:30 )**

>The Holy call therefore is God's action on the elect, those whom He chose before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless... "He predestined them for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ" **Ephesians 1:4-5**     **To Be Born Again**

**Let us rejoice in our Holy calling ...** See how this could have buoyed the spirit of Timothy, to recall the incredible love and grace that the Father had for him. Let us meditate as well on this glorious truth.

**T/S Now that we looked at what the holy calling is, let's look now at what it is not.**

**It is not a decision, an emotional experience or a religious adherence that leads to salvation. The Gospel makes it clear, It is not according to works. It can never be.**

**God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works,**

**It can never be by works, for God has fixed it so that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone.**

**Galatians 3:16** nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law ,since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

**Romans 10:3:** For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

Ignorance of the gospel, pride, and the lack of fear of the holiness of God will condemn man. Those who reject the Gospel are blinded and they attempt to establish their own righteousness before God.

**Reasons why the foolishness of works will leave you condemned.**

1. Man is depraved, dead and dirty. God is holy, pure and righteous. Sinners cannot dwell in His presence. ( **Habakkuk 3:13** *Your eyes are too pure to approve evil and You cannot look on wickedness with favor* )
2. There is nothing man can do to scrub off the dirty sin stains on his hands and in his heart. ( **Jeremiah 17:9** *The heart is more deceitful and desperately sick* )
3. There is no amount of works that can make one justified: We are guilty: we deserve the death penalty. ( **Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death* )
4. If God does not punish evil then He is not God, then there is no justice and God is just. Psalm 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne}
5. **If man could be justified by his merit, then Jesus died foolishly for nothing**
6. Man's works robs God of His glory and voids the love sacrifice on the cross. ( **Isaiah 42:8** *I will not give my glory to another* )
7. One cannot bribe God to get to heaven with works. ( **Matthew 7:22** *Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in your name, cast out demons and do many miracles* )
8. It is not by works, so no one can boast. ( **Ephesians 2:9/ 1 Corinthians 1:26-29** )  
**Please do not allow pride to keep you from yielding to His truth.**

Only the blood of Jesus can wash us clean. Only the wrath of God poured out on His Son can justify those who believe. **For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**  
**1Corinthians 1:18.**

T/S Praise God for His holy calling! Praise God for the atoning work of the blood

**HIS PURPOSE**

T/S Let's now look at point 3; His purpose for His calling on our lives.

## HIS GLORY

No greater demonstration of love has there been then the sacrifice of Jesus for sinners who would repent and believe and **no greater gift do we know then the grace bestowed on us to believe. His grace allows us to know and experience His everlasting love.**

It is also clear in the Bible, however, that His purpose in saving us was not supremely for us, **BUT FOR HIS GLORY.**

*Isaiah 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name and whom I created for My glory, whom I formed, even whom I made.*

*Isaiah 43:21 The people whom I formed for Myself will declare my praises.*

Pastor Jeff's first sermon at the Bridge was " It is not about you "

He does all things for His name sake:

*I, even I am the one who blots out your transgressions for my own sake. Isa 43:25*

*It's not for your sake, O Israel that I am about to act, but for my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. Ezekiel 36:22*

He guides me in the path of righteousness for His name sake" **Psalm 23:3**

**For me, the most precious and revealing word for to why God created us is seen in Ephesians 1:5-6** *He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will to the praise and glory of His grace.*

Elaborate: Saved from the pit, wretched sinner, hopeless, and now with God

**T/S Since it is clear from God's word we are created for His glory, how now is our calling to be lived out in the here and now? Let me take you to Isaiah 43:10**

***"You are My witnesses," declares the Lord," and My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed and there will be none after Me."***

## HIS WITNESS

**T/S So let's first look at what is our call to be His witness.**

**First, what is a witness? Definition:** One who attests to a fact or an event, give evidence of proof, personal knowledge of something.

As a Christian, it is a life that bears evidence that you are a new creation.  
In court, it is to testify of the truth; as a Christian, it is to testify of the Light of the Gospel.

**Jesus was the perfect witness testifying to the truth.**

**John 18:37** *Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this purpose I have been born, and for this I have come into the world: **to testify to the truth**. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice."*

**It is Jesus who commissions us to be His witnesses.**

**Acts 1:8** *but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth*

**Mark 16:15** *Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*

**Why are we sent?**

1. **Because He commanded ( We are Plan A and there is no other plan )**
2. **So others will believe: John 1:7 (testimony of John the Baptist) He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him."**

How will they believe unless you **GO** and tell them ( Faith comes from hearing )

**You have been specifically called for an appointed time and place and person.**

**Acts 17:26** God having determined times and boundaries of their dwelling place, so that they may grope for God.

**Examples:**

**Esther:** called for a specific time, place and person time

**John the Baptist:** to preach repentance and forgiveness of sin around the Jordan

**Paul:** chosen to go to the Gentiles, kings and the sons of Israel.

> **So, you too have been specifically called for an appointed time, place and person.**

**IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?**

**Examples in our church: like Peter to Cornelius**

1. Pastor Jeff and Mike.....to Fred
2. Jeff.... at the international airports
3. Tonya....to her Mother
4. Christine....to Moses
5. Pastor Mike and Rebel.... to their grandson
6. Sondra.... to a stranger in Pennsylvania
7. Silas.... at his school.

8. Daniel with a letter.....to a dying relative  
We have been called to testify!

Piper Video ( 1:30 )

**Some more truths about being His witness:**

- > **We are ambassadors for Christ**, urging people on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God.
- > **As His witness**, we will be hated but your suffering will lead to an opportunity to witness. (Paul: Praetorian guard).
- > **Peter and John rejoiced** that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.
- > **Make sure you share the full counsel of God in love. It is the whole truth** that sets one free.

**Acts 20:26** Paul did not shrink back from telling the full counsel of God

Let us be like Peter and John who said, **For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard. They testified of the Light. His name is JESUS.**

**HIS SERVANT**

T/S Now, let us look at the call to be His servant.

- > ***I chose you to be My witness and servant*** ... Not only will you testify of Me by proclaiming the Gospel, but you will be my servant to walk in deeds of righteousness that I prepared beforehand.

**"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." Ephesians 2:10**

- > **He has purposely positioned us to bear witness of His kindness and love through deeds rendered by His servants in faith in love.**

>> Isaiah 43:10 is the Old Testament parallel passage to 1John 3:18. ***Little children let us not love with word or tongue but in deed and truth.*** ( Daniel's 1st sermon)

- > **Definition: ( Webster )** " One who obeys his master"

> **(New Bible Dictionary)**" Humble man's description of himself in the presence of God. He knows his lowly status and knows the total claim of God on his life. He is confident in his service because he knows he is elected, loved and vindicated by God.

**JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE**

> **Matthew 20:28** *Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*

> **Luke 22:27** For who is greater, the one who reclines *at the table* or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines *at the table*? But I am among you as the one who serves.

### WHAT SHOULD OUR ATTITUDE BE IN SERVING? ( Like Jesus }

**Humility:** Washed the feet of His disciples

**Compassion:** as he fed the 5000 / looked at the people and saw they had no shepherd

**Joyfully:** as He went to the cross ...*for the joy set before Him endured the cross*

**Love: John 14:31** *but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me.*

### ALL THOSE ATTRIBUTES WERE DISPLAYED AT THE CROSS

**Jesus also said:** *Let your light so shine before men, IN SUCH A WAY that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

**a. What is your light?** It's the essence of Christ emanating from you; His love, kindness, and cheerfulness.

**b. What is "such a way"?** It is to serve one in such a way that they never have experienced, so that they may see Christ and ask what the hope that is in you.

**Paul said this:** *I thank God whom I serve with a clear conscience.* **2Timothy 1:3**

**Psalm 100:** Serve the Lord with gladness, come before His presence with thanks

**Never from an attitude of obligation or from a spirit of grumbling**

**Always motivated by the love of God and for His glory**

### Examples I have seen from our Bridge family:

- 1. Moses:** Going from village to village, house to house to take care of needs.
- 2. Pastor Frederick:** orphans and widows
- 3. Christine:** taking in high school kids who have no home
- 4. Debra:** 24 hrs. a day meeting needs. Luke 17, after working in the field all day, now comes to serve the meal
- 5. Josh** giving his time to pick up John Ray and David.
- 6. Various ministries;** Tech., Radio, children's curriculum, praise team, jail ministry, signs, and more. **I could go on and on.**

**How do we do this:** Paul who called himself a servant of God wrote this:

**1. Philippians 2:13** *For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

**2. 2 Corinthians 9.8** *And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed*

## CLOSE

**T/S** As we come to close, know that if you are a Christian, God, has indeed called you with a holy calling, to be His witness and servant.

As Jesus said in John 15, *You did not chose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit...***We do this as we faithfully submit to the Lordship of Christ.**

**We answer God's calling by learning, loving and living out the Great Commandments and the Great Commission.** We do this no matter what, especially in the midst of the ever present spiritual war. **We make disciples that make disciples.**

**We find the lost and grow the found.**

The call to be His witness and servant can be summed up in our Bridge Mission statement:

**LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, SERVE THE WORLD**

May we now joyfully serve our Lord with the utmost reverence and awe, and when we behold Him face to face, we will respond forever with praise to the glory of His grace; **FOR THIS IS THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD'S HOLY CALLING !**

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Closing prayer