

## Our Calling and Election

*Pastor Anthony J. Shetley - Sunday, October 1, 2023*

Surely all of God's children can agree with the words of John when he writes, *"How great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God (1 John 3:1).* You may wonder, "Why would the Lord ever save me?" The answer is because He loves you. While we were still sinning, Jesus died for us.

For one to know Christ is no accident. Truth be known, we didn't find the savior, He found us, and His calling and choosing us comes with grave responsibility. He has called us to glorify Him through a holy life and to be a witness unto Him in the world.

Its time to make our calling and election sure for "The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore, let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." (Romans 13:12)

Man separated himself from God through his disobedience. The biblical description of this separation is spiritual death. In this separation man lost His relationship with God; his knowledge of God; and the righteousness of God.

The corruption caused by sin has brought much suffering into this world. The bible ascribes all the suffering of humanity to the fall of man and his separation from God.

However, many reject the truth of the bible because they reject the God of the bible; they reject the divine creator; they ***“Walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.”*** (Ephesians 4:17)

Because of man’s separation from God there’s a void in his heart that man seeks tirelessly to fill. Who has the answer or the solution to save us from our plight; the government; the scientist, the philosopher, the brilliant scholar?

How does a man find God? The short answer is **God finds us**. He calls us and chooses us by His grace.

**God’s Calling and Choosing:** God has sought for Himself a people whom He has separated unto Himself calling and choosing them out from among the world.

God found **Noah and Noah found grace** in the eyes of the Lord. **God found Abraham** and gave him faith enough to trust and obey Him. **God wrestled with Jacob** and blessed Him. **God saved Moses from death in his infancy** for the purpose He had for him and later called him to that purpose. What every one of these shared in common was that they each heard the voice of God.

God spoke to the descendants of Abraham: **“You are a holy people to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”** (Deuteronomy 14:2)

God is still speaking today: **“God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, *in these last days* has spoken to us in His Son.”** (Hebrews 1:1–2)

A little over 2,000 years ago, according to the prophecy of Daniel, the clock for the “last days” began to tick when the Messiah was “cut off” speaking to the crucifixion of the Jesus.

We are living in a closing era of God’s grace extended to the Gentile world. The name Jesus was given to Him because “He would save His people from their sins.”

Jesus’ prayer for His People – *excerpts* (John 17:1–26)

***“...to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.***

***I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me...***

***...the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.***

***I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours...***

*I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one..."*

*Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.*

*I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.*

## **The Miracle of Our Salvation**

We who know Jesus, know Him because somehow, someway, by nothing less than His amazing grace, he encountered us with the Gospel. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, and **aren't you glad that He found you?**

You haven't learned of Christ by chance, by accident, nor by any other means but grace. "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you!"

Not many wise, not many nobles – by grace are you saved through faith. God has sent His Son to find you.

If you profess Christ today, I exhort you to **glorify His name! Worship Him! Praise Him! Adore Him! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!**

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that **you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**" (1 Peter 2:9)*

## **A Call to Action: Make your calling and election sure!**

May we renounce and repent today of every work of the flesh we have yielded to outside of the light of Christ. *"If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth."* (1 John 1:6)

Selfishness - self-centeredness; allowing the things of the world to take priority over our life;  
Arrogance; pride; self-righteousness; backbiting; whispering; divisiveness; hatred toward a brother;  
Grumbling and complaining; the neglect of our calling to be a witness; loss of our first love;  
Hypocrisy of judging others while not judging ourselves;  
Any other thing hindering us from fellowship with the Father, the Son, and His church;  
The quenching of the Holy Spirit.

***"The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore, let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."** (Romans 13:12)*

Make straight a highway, a path for the Lord - Jesus is coming soon.  
Call back the sinner, wake up the saint! Jesus is coming soon!!!