



2

Hebrews 4:9-10

9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

3

Jesus Loves the Hopeless Cases

Jesus loves the hopeless cases. He is attracted to those who are beaten, battered and bruised. The Lord binds up the broken hearted.

There are hopeless cases who are down and outers and then there are hopeless cases who are up and outers.

4

Apostle Paul's many Strengths Led to Pride

Circumcised on the eighth day, people of Israel

Tribe of Benjamin

Hebrew of Hebrews

As to zeal, a persecutor of the church

As to righteousness under the law, blameless

5

Rest in Our Calling

1. Effectual Call of God is always answered and fulfilled

2. We slowly realize the degree of our helplessness

3. Faith faces danger by focusing on his faithfulness

6

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Acts 9

1 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.

8

Acts 9

4 And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" 5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

9

Acts 9

8 Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. 10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

10

Acts 9

11 And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.

11

Acts 9

14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

12

Acts 9

17 So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; 19 and taking food, he was strengthened.

13

Calling, Command, and Chosen

1. "But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." v6
2. "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, v11
3. "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." v15

14

Coming to Terms

The English language requires the reader to use context to understand the meaning of words.

In the Oxford English Dictionary, the word "Set" lists examples of 464 definitions. "Run" has 396.

We don't know the definition of the word, it doesn't become a term for us, until we examine the context, even if we are familiar with the word.

15

Matthew 22

2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, 3 and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.'"

16

Matthew 22

5 But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. 7 The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy.

17

Matthew 22

9 Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' 10 And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.

18

Matthew 22

12 And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 For many are called, but few are chosen."

19

Many Called, Few Chosen

- 1. Called and Didn't Accept (Not Chosen)
- 2. Called, Accepted, Wedding Clothes (Chosen)
- 3. Called, Accepted But No Wedding Clothes (Not Chosen)

20

Calling

Calling is a general invitation to come and partake of God's favor which may or may not be answered.
 Mt 22:14 "For many are called, but few are chosen"

[Effectual] Calling is an invitation that includes transformative power to answer the call such that it is always answered. "Romans 8:30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."

21

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Apostle Paul's Transformation		
57AD	Least of Apostles	1 Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.
63AD	Least of Saints	Ephesians 3:7-8 Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ
64AD	Worst of Sinners	1 Timothy 1:16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

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Romans 11

28 As regards the gospel, they [Jews] are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.

29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable

25

What Does Irrevocable Mean?

- 1. All the promises made to the people of God shall be fulfilled.
- 2. His people need not be discouraged or desponding, in times of persecution and trial.

26

What Does Irrevocable Mean?

- 3. His true friends will be not be forsaken, or cast off. God does not bestow the gift of repentance and faith, of pardon and peace for a temporary purpose
- 4. When God renews a soul, it is for His own glory; and to leave such a soul once renewed to go down to hell, would be a violation of all the principles of his nature

27

1 Thessalonians 5:24

He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

28

1 Corinthians 1:8-9

8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

29

Philippians 1:6

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

30

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31



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