

Revisiting the Call

“Alice came to a fork in the road; 'Which road do I take?' she asked. “Where do you want to go?” responded the Cheshire Cat. “I don't know!” Alice answered. “Then,” said the Cat, “it doesn't matter.” Lewis Carroll, (Alice in Wonderland)



The Call of God

“The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why.” Mark Twain

“I think you can be anyone you want to be.” “Maybe in your world, Robert, it doesn't really happen in mine.” “Then change your world!” Bob (Denzil Washington) talking with a girl called Terri in ‘The Equalizer’

The Call of God is the most important thing in the world.

- Peter was called to be a fisher of men (Luke 5:10)
- Samson was called before he was born to deliver Israel from the Philistines (Judges 13:2-5)
- Jeremiah was called to be a prophet to the nations - Sanctified before he was born! (Jeremiah 1:5)
- John the Baptist was called to prepare the way for the Lord (Luke 1:13-17)

To be who you are called to be trumps anything else.



Numbers 2:1&2

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “The Israelites are to camp around the tent of meeting some distance from it, each of them under their own standard and holding the banners of their family.”

Paul was called in:

Acts 9:3-5

As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; It *is* hard for you to kick against the goads.”

Paul, several times, recalls his Damascus experience:

Acts 22:6-7 (Addressing mob in Jerusalem)

“Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ So I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’

Acts 26:12-15 (before Agrippa)

“While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, **13** at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. **14** And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you

persecuting Me? *It is hard for you to kick against the goads.*’ **15** So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

Galatians 1:15-17

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called *me* through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those *who were* apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

He describes himself as ‘called of God’.

He regularly goes back to his call in his introduction to his letters.

1 Corinthians 1:26

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

Romans 1:1

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God

1 Corinthians 1:1

Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God

2 Peter 1:10

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble.

Romans 11:29

For the gifts and the calling of God *are* irrevocable

Paul encourages Timothy to remember the prophecies:

1 Timothy 1:18

This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.

2 Timothy 3:15

...and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 139:16

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Psalms 31:15

My times are in your hands.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

There is no negotiating at the cross; we are bid to come and die!

God offered little choice to Gideon and the Judges; to Jeremiah; to Peter when he said, "What about him?"