

# See Your Calling

Eric R Ross / General

Man to Man / 1 Corinthians 1:26–31

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## You See Your Calling

**1 Corinthians 1:26 LEB**

<sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brothers, that not many *were* wise according to human standards, not many *were* powerful, not many *were* well born.

For ye see your calling, brethren ...

**1 Corinthians 2:7 LEB**

<sup>7</sup> but we speak the hidden wisdom of God in a mystery, which God predestined before the ages for our glory,

... we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory

## Boast That You Know God.

He can be known by you and wants you to know him.

**Jeremiah 9:24 LEB**

<sup>24</sup> But only in this must the one who boasts boast, *that* he has insight, and *that* he

knows me, that I *am* Yahweh, showing loyal love, justice, and righteousness on the earth, for in these *things* I delight," declares Yahweh.

If there is anything for me to boast about it is that I have a revelation of who God is and through that, I have a relationship with him.

## Who Is God?

"I am Yahweh"

"showing loyal love, justice, and righteousness on the earth"

"for in these things I delight," declares Yahweh.

## We Are Part of God's Way

We are not a part of the worlds way, we are part of God's way.

### Jeremiah 10 LEB

<sup>1</sup> Hear the word that Yahweh speaks to you, *O* house of Israel. <sup>2</sup> Thus says Yahweh: "You must not learn the way of the nations, and you must not be dismayed by the signs of the heavens, for the nations are dismayed by them. <sup>3</sup> For the statutes of the peoples *are* vanity, for it *is* a tree cut down from *the* forest, *the* work of *the* hands of a craftsman with the tool. <sup>4</sup> He decorates it with silver and gold, they strengthen it with nails and hammers, so that it does not stagger. <sup>5</sup> They *are* like scarecrows in a cucumber field, they cannot speak. Indeed, they must be carried, for they cannot march. You must not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil; furthermore, to do good *is* not in them." <sup>6</sup> There is none like you, *O* Yahweh, you *are* great and your name *is* great in might. <sup>7</sup> Who would not revere you, *O* king of the nations? For you it is fitting. For among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like you. <sup>8</sup> At the same time they are stupid and foolish, *in the* instruction of idols, it *is* wood. <sup>9</sup> Silver beaten from Tarshish is brought, and gold from Uphaz, the work of *the* craftsman and *the* hands of the goldsmith. Blue and purple *are* their clothing, all of them *are* the work of skillful people. <sup>10</sup> But Yahweh *is* the true God, he *is* the living God, and an everlasting

king. Because of his wrath the earth quakes, and *the* nations cannot endure his anger. <sup>11</sup> "Thus you shall say to them, 'Gods who did not make the heavens and the earth will perish from the earth and from under these heavens. <sup>12</sup> *He is* the maker of *the* earth by his power, *who* created the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding he stretched out heaven. <sup>13</sup> When he utters his voice *there is* a noise of water in the heavens, and he causes *the* mist to rise from *the* ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and he causes *the* wind to go out from his storehouses. <sup>14</sup> Everyone is stupid, without knowledge, every goldsmith is ashamed by *his* divine image, for his cast image *is* an illusion, and *there is* no breath in them. <sup>15</sup> They *are* vanity, a work of mockery, at the time of their punishment, they will perish. <sup>16</sup> The portion of Jacob *is* not like these, for he *is* the creator of everything, and Israel *is* the tribe of his inheritance, Yahweh of hosts *is* his name. <sup>17</sup> Gather your bundle from *the* ground, you who live under the siege.' "

<sup>18</sup> For thus says Yahweh, "Look, I *am* about to sling out the inhabitants of the land at this time, and I will bring distress to them, so that they may feel it." <sup>19</sup> Woe to me, because of my wound. My wound *is* incurable. But I said, "Surely this *is* my sickness, and I must bear it." <sup>20</sup> My tent is devastated, and all my tent cords are torn. My children have gone out *from* me, and they are not. There is no *one who* pitches my tent again, or *one who* puts up my tent curtains. <sup>21</sup> For the shepherds have become stupid, they do not seek Yahweh. Therefore they do not have insight, and all of their flock are scattered. <sup>22</sup> Listen, news: Look, *it is* coming, a great roar from *the* land of *the* north, to make the cities of Judah a desolation, a lair of jackals. <sup>23</sup> I know, O Yahweh, that to the human *is* not his *own* way, nor to a person *is* *the* walking and the directing of his *own* step. <sup>24</sup> Chastise me, O Yahweh, but in moderation, not in your anger, lest you eradicate me. <sup>25</sup> Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not know you, and on *the* peoples that do not call on your name, for they have devoured Jacob, they have devoured and consumed him, and they have caused his settlement to be desolate.

## There is a Great Divide

Separating those that "belong" from those that don't.

- We see it in the difference between the rich and the poor.
- We see it between those that have position and those that do not.

- We see those that have access to gated communities (whether that be in relation to the place they live, or the place they work, or the organizations they belong to).

Just a few examples: Do you have a New York City ID? A membership to the Botanical Gardens? Do you have a Passport for international travel? Do you have an ATM card so you can enter a bank? Do you have a Health Insurance card so you can go to a Hospital? Do you have a "Real ID" (required for air travel Oct. 1, 20210)? Have you registered for TSA-Pre? Do you have Amazon Prime?

These are current and widely recognized groups that separate people that are accepted from those that are not. Most of these are open to anyone if they choose to join but you you must be a member to participate.

These may be trivial examples, but what about other groups? Employers, Fraternities, Community groups. You may not be able to join because you can't afford to or because you don't meet their criteria for selection.

There are many in our society that feel the injustice of this great divide. These things though, are only temporal, they don't last.

It is the separation from God that matters and God made a way for us to be reconciled to himself. It says in

**1 Corinthians 1:21 LEB**

<sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom did not know God, God was pleased through the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe.

## **The Word of God (Jesus Christ) Came Down to Our Level**

*John 1:14; 1 Corinthians 1:21; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-8*

For example:

"As a kind teacher who cares for His disciples, if some of them cannot profit by higher subjects, comes down to their level, and teaches them at any rate by simpler courses; so also did the Word of God....

For seeing that men, having rejected the contemplation of God, and with their eyes downward, as though sunk in the deep, were seeking about for God in nature and in the world of sense, feigning gods for themselves of mortal men

| and demons;

| to this end the loving and general Savior of all, the Word of God, takes to Himself a body, and as Man walks among men and meets the senses of all men halfway, to the end, I say, that they who think that God is corporeal may from what the Lord effects by His body perceive the truth, and through Him recognize the Father.”

<sup>1</sup> Ritzema, E. (2013). *300 Quotations for Preachers from the Early Church*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

## Willful Disobedience

This great divide we see in our country is made worse by those that demand others follow the rules but refuse to follow themselves.

This creates an intentional separation because of their pride and prideful disobedience.

The most obvious example is those that refuse to wear a mask in public and then also refuse to take a step to the side to allow others to pass at a distance.

### **Romans 10:3** LEB

<sup>3</sup> For ignoring the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

## You Are a Defender of the Faith

These things won't be solved by confrontation but only by revelation by the love of God for them.

Charles Spurgeon said it this way:

### 300 Quotations for Preachers Letting the Gospel Lion Out

A great many learned men are defending the gospel; no doubt it is a very proper and right thing to do. Yet I always notice that, when there are most books of that kind, it is because the gospel itself is not being preached. Suppose a number of persons were to take it into their heads that they had to defend a lion, a full-grown king of beasts! There he is in the cage, and here come all the soldiers of the army to fight for him. Well, I should suggest to them, if they would not object, and feel that it was humbling to them, that they should kindly stand back, and open the door, and let the lion out! I believe that would be the best way of defending him, for he would take care of himself; and the best “apology” for the gospel is to let the gospel out.

CHARLES SPURGEON

## In This Way

There is a way that God operates if we will follow it.

### Acts 19:20 LEB

<sup>20</sup> In this way the word of the Lord was growing in power and was prevailing.

This verse says, “in this way”. What was the way? Reading the context we find in

Acts 19:8–19 (LEB)

Acts 19:8 So he (Paul) entered into the synagogue and was speaking boldly for three months, discussing and attempting to convince them concerning the kingdom of God.

Acts 19:10 And this took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Paul taught the people for two years before this next verse where we find that

Acts 19:11 And God was performing [extraordinary] miracles by the hands of

Paul, <sup>12</sup> so that even handkerchiefs or work aprons [that had touched his skin] were carried away to those who were sick, and their\* diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

Then, as the people saw the manifestation of God's power over disease and evil spirits, then, the people gave up their magic, their idols and books of incantations in

Acts 19:18 And many of those who had believed came, confessing and disclosing their practices, <sup>19</sup> and many of those who practiced magic brought together their\* books and\* burned them\* up in the sight of everyone.

## By the Power of Signs and Wonders

**Romans 15:18–19 LEB**

<sup>18</sup> For I will not dare to speak about anything except *that* which Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed, <sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit, so that from Jerusalem and *traveling* around as far as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

In another place Paul says,

**1 Corinthians 2:1–5 LEB**

<sup>1</sup> And I, *when I* came to you, brothers, did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup> For I decided not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and with much trembling, <sup>4</sup> and my speech and my preaching *were* not with the persuasiveness of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and power, <sup>5</sup> in order that your faith would not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

## By This Everyone Will Know

**John 13:35** LEB

<sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another.”

## Our Calling

Our job as defenders of the faith is simply to:

- Teach what the Bible says about Jesus Christ

**Romans 10:17** LEB

<sup>17</sup> Consequently, faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing through the word about Christ.

- Listen to what the Holy Spirit says and do it (signs and wonders)

**Hebrews 2:4** LEB

<sup>4</sup> *while* God was testifying at the same time by signs and wonders and various miracles and distributions of the Holy Spirit according to his will.

- Love each other

**John 17:20–21** LEB

<sup>20</sup> “And I do not ask on behalf of these only, but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they all may be one, just as you, Father, *are* in me and I *am* in you, that they also may be in us, in order that the world may believe that you sent me.