

Make Your Calling Sure
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— Study Note Outline —
MCS1

Four Tape Series

- 4135 *Your Calling Is Holy*
- 4136 *Opposition Of Witchcraft*
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Your Calling Is Holy
4135

I. Introduction (2 Peter 1:10)

A. Called

1. Invite
2. Summon
3. The point at which God confronts you with His call is the most significant moment in your life.
4. Your whole destiny will be determined by the way you respond to the call of God.

B. Personal testimony

1. God's challenge
2. Make a decision
3. Do not assume you have a second opportunity

II. Relationship To The Purpose And Plan Of God

A. Romans 8:29–30, 1 Peter 1:2

1. "All things work together for our good" applies only to those who respond to God's call
2. Before the call of God comes in our lives God did three things which happened in eternity
 - a. Foreknew us: knew us before we were born, from eternity
 - b. Chose us: on the basis of His eternal knowledge
 - c. Predestined us: God has planned the course of your life

B. The call of God is the point at which God's eternal purposes emerge out of eternity and impact us in time

III. Relationship To Salvation

A. 2 Thessalonians 2:13–14

1. Chosen to be saved
 - a. The initiative is always with God
 - b. Enduring fruit proceeds only out of God's choice
2. The Holy Spirit guides you into the place where you are going to meet God
3. When you are called of God you are called to salvation

4. The calling of God begins with salvation
- B. 2 Timothy 1:9
 1. Your calling is a holy calling
 - a. Takes priority over everything else
 - b. Example of an athlete
 2. Your calling is by grace
 - a. You are not called to what you are able to do
 - b. Grace begins where human ability ends
 3. Called to fulfill a purpose conceived before time
- C. Matthew 22:14
 1. Many are called, but few are chosen
 2. To be chosen, you have to meet God's condition

IV. Requirements For Fulfilling Your Calling

- A. Single-mindedness—most important requirement
- B. Uncompromising priority (Luke 14:26–33)
 1. The cross
 - a. Where God's will and your will cross
 - b. The place where you die (compare John 12:25): ego, ambition, talent, etc.
 2. Commitment
 3. You cannot be His disciple:
 - a. If you do not hate your closest kin and own life
 - b. If you do not take up the cross
 - c. If you do not forsake all that you have
 4. The life you find if you lose the other (Mark 10:29–30)
- C. Avoid diversions (Luke 10:3–4 [compare 2 Kings 4:29])
- D. Pattern of a runner (Heb. 12:1–2)
 1. Do not be entangled with sin
 2. Do not carry any unnecessary weight
- E. Example of Paul (Phil. 3:12–14; 2 Tim. 4:7)

V. Three Stages (Rev. 17:14)

- A. Called
- B. Chosen
- C. Faithful
- D. Rev. 14:4
 1. The key is to follow the Lamb wherever He goes
 2. The people who finish the course are those who follow the Lamb

Opposition Of Witchcraft

4136

I. The Nature Of Witchcraft—General

- A. Three related words
 1. Witchcraft—dominating force

Operates outside the church in the natural by curses and spells
 2. Divination—fortune-telling aspect

- Seeks to disclose the future
- 3. Sorcery—operates through objects
 - Charms, talismans, drugs, music
- B. Closely connected with rebellion—1 Sam. 15:23
 - 1. Rebellion sets up illegitimate rulership
 - 2. Witchcraft is the power that supports the illegitimate rulership
- C. Key words: control, dominate, manipulate, intimidate
 - 1. Wife vs. husband—manipulates by emotional outburst, sickness
 - 2. Children vs. parents—manipulates by temper tantrum
 - 3. “Prophetess” vs. pastor—manipulates by “words” from God
- D. A work of the flesh—Gal. 5:20
 - 1. Man was created ruler
 - 2. In his fallen condition man still seeks to rule, but by *illegitimate means*
 - 3. The result is to control by witchcraft—Gal. 3:1
- E. Two main biblical types
 - 1. Male: Balaam—Num. 22:5; 2 Peter 2:15; Jude 11; Rev. 2:14
 - 2. Female: Jezebel—1 Kings 16:31; Rev. 2:20
 - 3. In the New Testament both are mentioned *within the church*
 - 4. The devil defeats the church through the fifth column
- F. Witchcraft has two main approaches
 - 1. To curse God’s people directly
 - 2. To entice God’s people into sins that automatically bring God’s curse on them

II. The Nature Of Witchcraft—*In The Church*

- A. Galatians 3:1–3
 - 1. Witchcraft expressed as *legalism*
 - a. Seeking to achieve righteousness by keeping rules
 - b. Adding to God’s requirements for righteousness
 - 2. Witchcraft operates by obscuring the work of the cross in three aspects:
 - a. Abolishing Law as a means to righteousness—Rom. 10:4
 - b. Demonstrating God’s judgment on the “flesh”—Rom. 6:6
 - c. Requiring a response of a crucified life—Gal. 5:24
 - 3. Legalism appeals to human pride
 - a. Romans 3:27–28, 4:2
 - b. Ephesians 2:8–9
 - c. Legalism undermines what Jesus did on the cross

III. The Consequences Of Legalism

- A. Puts Christians back under the law
- B. Leaves no room for God’s supernatural
 - God will not grant the supernatural to the efforts of the fleshly nature
- C. Brings a curse
 - 1. Galatians 3:10–13
 - 2. Jeremiah 17:5

IV. Basic Error

- A. Rejecting the Holy Spirit
 - Creates a vacuum which is filled by the spirit of witchcraft

- B. End result
 - 1. Flesh usurps rule over the Holy Spirit
 - 2. Ishmael ruling Isaac

V. Two Ways To Achieve Righteousness

- A. Law and grace
 - 1. Mutually exclusive
 - a. Romans 6:14, 8:14
 - b. Galatians 5:18
 - 2. Galatians 4:30
- B. Man prefers to rely on self rather than God—Romans 8:5
- C. Law releases the flesh
 - 1. Romans 7:5–6
 - 2. Works of the flesh—Gal. 5:19–21
- D. God gives grace to the humble
- E. Our relationship to law, rules and systems
 - 1. We never achieve righteousness by keeping rules
 - 2. If we have been made righteous by faith and if the rules are pleasing to the Holy Spirit, He will direct us to them and give us grace to keep them (example of speed limit).
 - 3. If the rules are *not* pleasing to the Holy Spirit, He will guide us away from them.
 - 4. We must never bypass the Holy Spirit and rely only on rules. This will “short circuit” the Holy Spirit in our lives.
 - 5. Example of two ways to find your way to a destination:
 - a. Map = Law
 - b. Personal guide = Holy Spirit
- F. Two possible relationships—Rom. 7:4–6
 - 1. By the law we are married to the *flesh*
 - a. Only way out of this relationship is by death
 - b. Through the death of Jesus our flesh was put to death
 - c. Produces the works of the flesh—Gal. 5:19–21
 - 2. By the Spirit we are married to the *resurrected Christ*
Produces the fruit of the Spirit—Gal. 5:22–23
 - 3. The relationship is based on *union* not effort—1 Cor. 6:16–17
 - a. The way we live will be determined by the one to whom we are married
 - b. Union with Christ can only come when we are free from the union with the flesh
- G. Need to repent
 - 1. Toward the Holy Spirit
 - 2. Ask for release from bondage—Rom. 8:15, Gal. 5:1

Continually Led By The Spirit 4137

I. Introduction

- A. Root problem of the Church

- People have not been taught how to be led by the Holy Spirit
- B. No *substitute* for the *Holy Spirit*—Zech. 4:6
 1. Might and power cannot do what has to be done: change people
 2. We are totally dependent on the Holy Spirit
 - C. Only *way to maturity*—Rom. 8:14
 1. Being led by the Holy Spirit on a daily basis
 2. The Holy Spirit is always willing to lead

II. Different Aspects Of The Holy Spirit

- A. The *Holy Spirit* is a *person*—John 16:7, 13
 1. Jesus (a *Person*) sent the Holy Spirit (another *Person*) to take His place
 2. It is to our advantage for us to have Jesus in heaven and the Holy Spirit on earth
 3. Jesus uses the pronoun “He” for the Holy Spirit
- B. The *Holy Spirit* is *Lord*—2 Cor. 3:17
 1. Father, Son and Spirit: each is *God* and each in *Lord*
 2. Where the Holy Spirit is there is liberty
 3. Religious traditions produce bondage
 4. We must have the same attitude of reverence toward the Spirit as to the Father and Son
 5. We have access in the *Son* through the *Spirit* to the *Father*—Eph. 2:18
- C. Sensitivity
 1. Example of a marriage relationship
 2. John 1:29, 32–34: the Dove (Holy Spirit) is looking for the nature of the Lamb (Jesus)
 3. Nature of the Lamb which attracts the Holy Spirit
 - a. Purity
 - b. Meekness
 - c. A life laid down in sacrifice
 4. Luke 4:17–21—Jesus attributed His ministry entirely to the Holy Spirit
The success in your ministry is in direct proportion to the measure of the anointing of the Holy Spirit
 5. Eph. 4:29–32—Things that repel the Dove
 - a. The way we use our mouth
 - b. Bitterness, wrath, anger, shouting, evil speaking and malice
 - c. Things the Holy Spirit looks for: kind, tenderhearted and forgiving

III. Relationship Between The *Holy Spirit* And The *Word*

- A. The *Holy Spirit* is the *author*—2 Timothy 3:16
- B. The Holy Spirit is the *interpreter*
 1. John 14:26, 16:13
 2. 2 Peter 1:20–21
 3. Example of the piano (the *Word*) and the pianist (Holy Spirit—interpreter)

IV. Relationship Between The *Holy Spirit* And *Prayer*

- A. The Holy Spirit is indispensable (Romans 8:26–27)
 1. We have a twofold weakness
 - a. We do not always know *what* to pray for

- b. We do not always know *how* to pray
- 2. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses
- B. Four kinds of prayer
 - 1. Based directly on Scripture—1 Chron. 17:23; Luke 1:38
 - 2. Directly inspired—Ps. 81:10
 - 3. Supernatural—1 Cor. 14:14–15
 - 4. Travail or labor pains—Rom. 8:22–23, 27

V. Relationship Between The *Holy Spirit* And You

- A. Be prepared to be weak or foolish
 - 1. Foolish
 - a. 1 Cor. 1:22–29—Are you in the category God has chosen?
 - b. 1 Cor. 1:18–20—God has no respect for the wisdom of this world. 1 Cor. 2:1–8; 1 Cor. 3:18–20; 1 Cor. 8:2
 - 2. Examples of people who did foolish things
 - a. Noah and the ark
 - b. Moses and the bitter pool
 - c. Elisha and the impure water
 - d. Jesus and the blind man
 - e. Pentecost
 - 3. Weakness
 - 2 Cor. 12:7–10—God only manifests His strength in human weakness
 - 4. Do not go back to *rules*
 - a. Romans 6:14
 - b. Romans 8:14; Gal. 5:18
 - 5. Through the *Holy Spirit* we are *united* with *Christ* (Romans 7:1–6)
 - 6. Our union with Christ is consummated by worship (John 4:22–23)

Corporate Calling Of The Church

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I. Introduction

- A. The bride's *attire* is her *completed task*
 - 1. Revelation 19:7–8
 - 2. We, corporately, have to complete all our assignments before we are ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb
 - 3. Imputed righteousness is to be worked out (righteous acts) in our lives
- B. Responsibility of the Church
 - 1. Proclaim the Good News of the kingdom
 - 2. Demonstrate the kingdom in our corporate lives: righteousness, peace, joy (Romans 14:17)
 - 3. Prepare the way for the establishment of God's kingdom on earth
 - a. Matt. 4:17, 23—Repent of rebellion/align yourself with God's purpose
 - b. Matt. 6:10, 33—Priority in life is the kingdom of God
 - c. Matt. 10:7–8—Demonstration of the kingdom
 - d. Matt. 12:26, 28—Two opposing kingdoms
 - e. Matt. 24:14—Proclaim to all nations

II. Two Main Agents

A. Apostolic teams

1. Apostle: one sent forth
2. The primary purpose of apostolic ministry is *outreach*
3. Jesus is the first apostle
 - a. Jesus had a team
 - b. Primarily mobile
4. Key word: *Go*
 - a. John 15:16
 - b. Acts 1:1–2
 - c. Matt. 28:18–20
 - d. Mark 16:14–15
5. Appointment of apostle originates with God
 - a. 1 Timothy 1:1—Appointment came from God through Jesus Christ
 - b. Acts 13:1–4—The Holy Spirit made the call effective in the church
6. Main task of an apostle: to lay the foundation of Jesus Christ where it has not been laid (1 Cor. 3:10–11)
7. The attestation of an apostle—2 Cor. 12:12
 - a. Perseverance—*character*
 - b. Signs, wonders and mighty deeds—*supernatural*

B. Presbytery

1. Definition: a group of elders in a local area who are the leaders of the church in that area
2. The primary purpose of a presbytery is *conservation*
3. Three titles
 - a. Elder
 - b. Shepherd (pastor)
 - c. Overseer (bishop)
4. Appointed by apostles
 - a. Acts 14:22–23
 - b. Acts 20:17, 20—The agent is the Holy Spirit
5. Main task of an elder: government—1 Timothy 5:17
6. The attestation of an elder—1 Timothy 3:1–7
 - a. Life of personal holiness
 - b. Knowledge of Scripture
 - c. Family life is in order
 - d. Good reputation in the community
7. Jesus provides shepherds for His people
 - a. Human *shepherds* are always spoken of in the *plural*
 - b. Jesus is the only one to receive title of *Shepherd* in the *singular*—1 Peter 2:25
 - c. Human ministers each contribute their part—1 Cor. 3:6
 - d. Local relationships take precedence over translocal relationships

III. Characteristic Features Of Apostles And Presbyteries

A. Normally plural

1. Elders are a part of a presbytery

- 2. Apostles operated in teams
- B.** Each group sovereign but not independent
- C.** Interdependent
 - 1. Apostles appoint elders
 - 2. Elders send out apostles
- D.** Dependent on God's grace
- E.** Directed by the Holy Spirit
- F.** Prophets have a role in each
 - 1. Acts 13:1—Prophets and elders
 - 2. Eph. 2:20—Prophets and apostles
- G.** Headquarters is where the *head* is—Eph. 1:22–23
 - 1. Jesus is our head
 - 2. Jesus is in heaven
 - 3. Our headquarters are in heaven
 - 4. Jesus governs both from heaven by the Holy Spirit
- H.** Example of Abraham
 - 1. His mistake was doing more than God asked
 - 2. Most problems are caused by us doing things that God did not tell us to do