

“BIOGRAPHY OF A CALLED MAN”

Rom 1:1

Biography: Life-story. We read of military/business/politics – To discover how they got there. Paul gives the biography of a called man.

I. A SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST

A. Paul describes the basic/overall posture of his life: *VI A servant of Jesus Christ...*

1. Servant = slave: One whose life & will is at the disposal of another
a. 1 Cor 6:20 for you were bought with a price... I am owned by God!
2. This attitude permeated Paul's salvation
 - a. Constant: every area of life: Time/\$/relationships...
 - b. Ongoing: Not just for a small time; Paul had been saved/in the ministry for years!
3. This is not based on position or reward
 - a. The motivation is not what I'm getting or what position I am in
1. Some disciples: If I was the concert director or preaching in the concert I would do that... but if not, then NO!
 - b. Slaves didn't get anything – and were in the lowest position

B. The heart that God is able to use is a submitted heart

1. His conversion: *Acts 9:6 what would have me to do...?*
 - a. Samuel: *1 Samuel 3:10 The LORD came and stood there and called as he had before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel said, "Speak, LORD. I am your servant and I am listening."*

II. CALLED TO BE AN APOSTLE

A. The great issue of discipleship – Calling: *VI Called to be an apostle...*

1. God has plans for your life: Things He has chosen for you to do
 - a. Called: Invitation to a purpose...to summons in order to give a task
2. Things that don't exist yet: Things you might not even choose for yourself – see in yourself
a. Jer 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

B. But he is called to be an apostle: *A sent one...*

1. Has the idea of being sent – often as an ambassador to reach other people
 - a. **Specific people you are chosen to reach with the Gospel**
 1. God planned for Paul to reach Lydia/Timothy/Onesimus
 - a. To save them from hell! *Jude 1:23 snatch others from the fire and save them;*
 - b. To totally transform their entire lives: *Drugs/alcohol/loneliness/violence/suicide – no hope!*
 - c. To help them fulfill their calling/destiny in God!
1. Mark & Cheryl Underwood: 15,000 miles from Prescott/3,000 miles from Perth... Chosen/planned for us!
 2. Who does God have planned for you to reach?
 - b. **Specific cities you are chosen to reach with the Gospel**
1. Your life making impact in a specific city: One you may have never heard about!
 - c. **Specific nations you are chosen to reach with the Gospel**
1. An ambassador has the idea of another nation: Paul traveled to the nations/impacted people across borders!
a. 1 Cor 10:16 To preach the Gospel in regions beyond...

III. SET APART FOR THE GOSPEL

A. Calling demands a response: You have to do something in response to the fact that you are called by God

1. If you do nothing about your calling – you will go nowhere!
 - a. You aim your entire life at your calling – by the decisions you make in life
1. OT prophets: Illustrated sermons; They lived out their calling in obedience to God!
2. You can't live your life the same as someone who is not called!
a. VI separated – OT Holy/consecrated: Different than other things – because it has a Holy purpose

B. Our scripture speaks in *VI being separated to the Gospel of God...*

1. We are separated to a message: Gospel of God is the good news of salvation
 - a. Disciples should aim their lives at evangelism/fruitfulness/soul-winning/follow-up!
2. We are separated to God's word: Ambassadors should have something to say from their ruler
 - a. Our lives should revolve around the word of God
 1. Reading/praying over/crying out for wisdom to understand/asking questions/studying/practicing
 - b. So when we get to the people/place God has chosen: We should have something to say from God!