

## Message Three

# The Purpose of God's Calling

AY Hymns 438, 396

Scripture Reading: Exo. 3:7-8, 10, 12, 17-18; Eph. 1:4-5; 2 Tim. 1:9-10;

1 Pet. 2:9, 20; 5:10; 1 Cor. 1:9; 2 Thes. 2:14; 1 Thes. 2:12

Exo 3:7	And Jehovah said, I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.
Exo 3:8	And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.
Exo 3:12	And He said, Surely I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God upon this mountain.
Exo 3:17	And I say, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.
Exo 3:18	And they will listen to your voice. And you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you shall say to him, Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God.
Eph 1:4	Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,
Eph 1:5	Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
2 Tim 1:9	Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
2 Tim 1:10	But now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who nullified death and brought life and incorruption to light through the gospel,
1 Pet 2:9	But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
1 Pet 2:20	For what glory is it if, while sinning and being buffeted, you endure? But if, while doing good and suffering, you endure, this is grace with God.
1 Pet 5:10	But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.
1 Cor 1:9	God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
2 Thes 2:14	To which also He called you through our gospel unto the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thes 2:12	So that you might walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

### **I. As revealed in Exodus, the purpose of God's calling was to deliver the children of Israel, God's chosen people, out of the tyranny of the Egyptians and out of Egypt, the land of bondage, and to bring them into Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey—3:7-8, 10, 17:**

Exo 3:7	And Jehovah said, I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.
Exo 3:8	And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.
Exo 3:10	So come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.
Exo 3:17	And I say, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.

#### **A. The nation of Egypt typifies the kingdom of darkness, and Pharaoh typifies Satan, the devil—Col. 1:13; 1 John 5:19b; John 12:31; Heb. 2:14-15; Rev. 12:9a:**

Col 1:13	Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
1 John 5:19b	... and the whole world lies in the evil one.
John 12:31	Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.
Heb 2:14	Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,
Heb 2:15	And might release those who because of the fear of death through all their life were held in slavery.
Rev 12:9a	And the great dragon was cast down, the ancient serpent, he who is called the Devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole inhabited earth; ...

1. The world is not a source of enjoyment; it is a place of tyranny, and every aspect of the world is a form of tyranny— Gal. 4:8.  
Gal 4:8            However at that time, not knowing God, you were slaves to the gods which by nature are not gods;
  2. In the world Satan is keeping God’s chosen people, those destined for the fulfillment of God’s purpose, under his usurping hand—Eph. 2:2; Luke 13:11-12:  
Eph 2:2            In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;  
Luke 13:11        And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and she was bent double and could not stand erect at all.  
Luke 13:12        And Jesus, seeing her, called her to Him and said to her, Woman, you are released from your infirmity.
    - a. To exist is one thing, but to exist for the divine purpose is another thing—Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:11; 3:11; 2 Tim. 1:9.  
Rom 8:28            And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.  
Eph 1:11            In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,  
Eph 3:11            According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
2 Tim 1:9            Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
    - b. Satan has usurped people so that they care only for their existence, not for God’s purpose in their existence—Matt. 6:25, 31-33.  
Matt 6:25            Because of this, I say to you, Do not be anxious for your life, what you should eat or what you should drink; nor for your body, what you should put on. Is not the life more than food, and the body than clothing?  
Matt 6:31            Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed?  
Matt 6:32            For all these things the Gentiles are anxiously seeking. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.  
Matt 6:33            But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- B. To bring a person out of Satan’s hand and out of the kingdom of darkness is a mighty work—12:28-29; Luke 11:21-22; Acts 26:16-18; Col. 1:13:  
Matt 12:28        But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.  
Matt 12:29        Or how can anyone enter into the house of the strong man and plunder his goods unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will thoroughly plunder his house.  
Luke 11:21        When the strong man, fully armed, guards his own homestead, his possessions are in peace.  
Luke 11:22        But when one stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes away his whole armor in which he had trusted and distributes his spoil.  
Acts 26:16        But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you;  
Acts 26:17        Delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I send you,  
Acts 26:18        To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.  
Col 1:13            Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
1. For this reason, the divine revelation in the New Testament places a very high value on the preaching of the gospel— Rom. 1:16; Matt. 24:14; Mark 16:15.  
Rom 1:16            For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, both to Jew first and to Greek.  
Matt 24:14        And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.  
Mark 16:15        And He said to them, Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all the creation.
  2. One aspect of God’s purpose in calling us is to use us to bring others out of the usurpation and tyranny of Satan and the world—Acts 26:18; Eph. 3:9.  
Acts 26:18        To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to

God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,

- C. In typology, bringing the children of Israel into Canaan, a good land flowing with milk and honey, signifies bringing people into the all-inclusive Christ with His unsearchable riches—v. 8; Col. 1:12:

Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

1. Ultimately, the purpose of God's calling is to bring His people into the good land so that they may enjoy Christ in His all-inclusiveness—Eph. 3:18; Col. 2:6-7, 16-17; 3:11.

Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are

Col 2:6 As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,

Col 2:7 Having been rooted and being built up in Him, and being established in the faith even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Col 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,

Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.

Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

2. We need to bring others all the way from the world into the all-inclusive Christ for God's kingdom and God's building—Eph. 3:8; 2:19-22.

Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Eph 2:20 Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone;

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Eph 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

- D. Exodus 3 reveals that in fulfilling the purpose of God's calling there are three stations—the wilderness, the mountain, and the good land—vv. 8, 12, 17-18:

Exo 3:8 And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

Exo 3:12 And He said, Surely I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God upon this mountain.

Exo 3:17 And I say, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.

Exo 3:18 And they will listen to your voice. And you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you shall say to him, Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God.

1. In 3:18 the term *wilderness* is used in a positive sense to denote a place of separation from the world:

Exo 3:18 And they will listen to your voice. And you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you shall say to him, Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to Jehovah our God.

a. As soon as a person is saved, he should be brought out of the world into the wilderness where there is no Egyptian element.

b. We need to have the power of resurrection in our preaching of the gospel so that others are raised out of their tombs and brought into the wilderness—a realm in resurrection—by a journey of three days—John 5:25; Eph. 2:1, 5-6; Col. 2:13.

John 5:25 Truly, truly, I say to you, An hour is coming, and it is now, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

Eph 2:1 And you, though dead in your offenses and sins,  
 Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)  
 Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the  
 heavenlies in Christ Jesus,  
 Col 2:13 And you, though dead in your offenses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh,  
 He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our offenses;

2. The mountain is where we receive the revelation regarding God's eternal purpose—

Exo. 3:12; 19:2; 24:9-13, 18:

Exo 3:12 And He said, Surely I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God upon this mountain.  
 Exo 19:2 And when they had journeyed from Rephidim and had come to the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped in front of the mountain.  
 Exo 24:9 Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up.  
 Exo 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel, and under His feet there was something like a paved work of sapphire, even like heaven itself for clearness.  
 Exo 24:11 And He did not stretch out His hand upon the nobles of the children of Israel. And they beheld God and ate and drank.  
 Exo 24:12 And Jehovah said to Moses, Come up to Me at the top of the mountain, and be there; and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and the commandment, which I have inscribed for their instruction.  
 Exo 24:13 And Moses rose up with Joshua his attendant, and Moses went up to the top of the mountain of God.  
 Exo 24:18 And Moses entered into the midst of the cloud and went up on the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

a. At the mountain the children of Israel received the revelation concerning what God is and concerning God's desire to have a dwelling place on earth—19:3-6; 20:2; 25:8-9.

Exo 19:3 And Moses went up to God, and Jehovah called to him out of the mountain, saying, Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel:  
 Exo 19:4 You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.  
 Exo 19:5 Now therefore if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My personal treasure from among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine.  
 Exo 19:6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel.  
 Exo 20:2 I am Jehovah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the slave house;  
 Exo 25:8 And let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst;  
 Exo 25:9 According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, even so shall you make it.

b. On the mountain, where the sky is clear, we can see the vision of God's economy—24:10; Rev. 21:10.

Exo 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel, and under His feet there was something like a paved work of sapphire, even like heaven itself for clearness.  
 Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

c. Here we come to know what is on God's heart, and we see what God desires to have on earth today—Eph. 1:5, 9; Phil. 2:13.

Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,  
 Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,  
 Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

3. If we would reach the ultimate goal of God's calling, we need to journey onward and enter into the good land—Exo. 3:8, 17; Deut. 8:7-10:

Exo 3:8 And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

- Exo 3:17 And I say, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.
- Deut 8:7 For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;
- Deut 8:8 A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;
- Deut 8:9 A land in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper.
- Deut 8:10 And you shall eat and be satisfied, and you shall bless Jehovah your God for the good land which He has given you.
- a. The people of Israel entered into the good land by the Ark with the tabernacle (Josh. 3:3, 6, 8, 13-17; 4:10-19), through burial in the Jordan River (vv. 1-9, 20), and by circumcision (5:2-4) in order to enjoy the riches of the land (Deut. 8:7-10).
- Josh 3:3 And they commanded the people, saying, When you see the Ark of the Covenant of Jehovah your God and the Levitical priests bearing it, you shall set out from your place and go after it.
- Josh 3:6 Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, Take up the Ark of the Covenant, and cross over before the people. And they took up the Ark of the Covenant and went before the people.
- Josh 3:8 And you shall command the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant, saying, When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.
- Josh 3:13 And when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the Ark of Jehovah, the Lord of all the earth, come to rest in the waters of the Jordan; the waters of the Jordan, the waters that flow down from upstream, will be cut off, and they will stand in a heap.
- Josh 3:14 And so it happened that when the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were before the people.
- Josh 3:15 And when those who carried the Ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who carried the Ark dipped into the edge of the water (now the Jordan overflowed all its banks throughout all the days of the harvest),
- Josh 3:16 The waters that flowed down from upstream stood and rose up in a heap a great distance away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those that flowed down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people crossed over from opposite Jericho.
- Josh 3:17 And the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant of Jehovah stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel was crossing over on dry ground, until all the nation had completely crossed over the Jordan.
- Josh 4:10 And the priests who carried the Ark stood in the middle of the Jordan until everything was completed that Jehovah had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua. And the people hurried and crossed over.
- Josh 4:11 And when all the people had completely crossed over, the Ark of Jehovah with the priests crossed over before the people.
- Josh 4:12 And the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over in battle array before the children of Israel, as Moses had told them to do;
- Josh 4:13 About forty thousand equipped for war crossed over before Jehovah into the plains of Jericho for battle.
- Josh 4:14 On that day Jehovah magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they revered him as they had revered Moses all the days of his life.
- Josh 4:15 Then Jehovah spoke to Joshua, saying,
- Josh 4:16 Command the priests who carry the Ark of the Testimony to come up out of the Jordan.
- Josh 4:17 And Joshua commanded the priests, saying, Come up out of the Jordan.
- Josh 4:18 And when the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant of Jehovah came up out from the middle of the Jordan, when the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up onto the dry land, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and went over all its banks as before.
- Josh 4:19 And the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal, at the eastern edge of Jericho.
- Josh 4:1 And when all the nation had completely crossed over the Jordan, Jehovah spoke to Joshua, saying,
- Josh 4:2 Take for yourselves twelve men from among the people, one man from each tribe;

- Josh 4:3 And command them, saying, Take up for yourselves from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones; and bring them over with you, and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.
- Josh 4:4 So Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from among the children of Israel, one man from each tribe.
- Josh 4:5 And Joshua said to them, Pass on before the Ark of Jehovah your God into the middle of the Jordan, and every one of you lift up one stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel,
- Josh 4:6 That this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, saying, What do these stones mean to you?
- Josh 4:7 You shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the Ark of the Covenant of Jehovah; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. Thus these stones will be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.
- Josh 4:8 And the children of Israel did as Joshua commanded and took up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, as Jehovah told Joshua to do, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel. And they brought them over with them to the place where they were to lodge, and they laid them down there.
- Josh 4:9 Then Joshua erected twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant had stood; and they are there to this day.
- Josh 4:20 And those twelve stones, which they had taken from the Jordan, Joshua erected in Gilgal.
- Josh 5:2 At that time Jehovah said to Joshua, Make knives of flint, and circumcise again the children of Israel a second time.
- Josh 5:3 And Joshua made knives of flint and circumcised the children of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth.
- Josh 5:4 And this is the reason Joshua circumcised them: All the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, died in the wilderness on the way, after they had come out of Egypt.
- Deut 8:7 For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;
- Deut 8:8 A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;
- Deut 8:9 A land in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper.
- Deut 8:10 And you shall eat and be satisfied, and you shall bless Jehovah your God for the good land which He has given you.
- b. Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians show us Christ as the all-inclusive land—Christ as the center and circumference, the centrality and universality, of God's eternal economy—Col. 2:9; 3:11.
- Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- c. We need to help others experience Christ in all His unsearchable riches so that God may be able to establish His kingdom and have His dwelling place on earth today—Eph. 3:8; 2:21; Rom. 10:12; 14:17.
- Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- Eph 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;
- Rom 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;
- Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

## II. The purpose of God's calling is fully revealed in the New Testament:

- A. God's calling is according to His predestination (Eph. 1:4-5), His purpose (2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 8:28), and His grace (2 Tim. 1:9-10).
- Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,
- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

- 2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- 2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
- 2 Tim 1:10 But now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who nullified death and brought life and incorruption to light through the gospel,
- B. God's calling is in Christ (1 Pet. 5:10) and through the gospel (2 Thes. 2:14).**
- 1 Pet 5:10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.
- 2 Thes 2:14 To which also He called you through our gospel unto the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. The New Testament reveals various aspects of the purpose of God's calling:**
1. **God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light—1 Pet. 2:9:**

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

    - a. Darkness is a sign of sin and death; it is the expression and sphere of Satan in death.
    - b. When God calls us, He opens our eyes and turns us from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to Himself; to be turned to God means to be turned to the authority of God, which is God's kingdom of light—Acts 26:18.

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.
  2. **God's calling is that His chosen ones may be separated and made holy unto God, to be the holy ones, the saints—Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2.**

Rom 1:7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, the called saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:
  3. **God has called us so that we may enter into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to partake of and enjoy His all-inclusive riches—vv. 9, 30.**

1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
  4. **God has called us into the sufferings of Christ—1 Pet. 2:20-21.**

1 Pet 2:20 For what glory is it if, while sinning and being buffeted, you endure? But if, while doing good and suffering, you endure, this is grace with God.

1 Pet 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps;
  5. **For the Body of Christ, God has called us into the peace of Christ—Col. 3:15.**

Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
  6. **God has called us for the purpose of obtaining the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ; He has called His chosen ones unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth so that they might obtain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ—2 Thes. 2:13-14.**

2 Thes 2:13 But we ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth,

2 Thes 2:14 To which also He called you through our gospel unto the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  7. **God's calling is by His own glory and with the goal of our entering into the eternal glory of God—2 Pet. 1:3; 1 Pet. 5:10:**

2 Pet 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,

1 Pet 5:10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.

- a. God has called us not only by His glory but also to His glory.
  - b. In order that we might enter into His eternal glory, the God of all grace is ministering to us the riches of the bountiful supply of the divine life in many aspects and in many steps of the divine operation on and in us in God's economy—v. 10; 2 Pet. 1:3.
    - 1 Pet 5:10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.
    - 2 Pet 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,
8. God has called us into His kingdom—1 Thes. 2:12:
- 1 Thes 2:12 So that you might walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.
  - a. The kingdom of God is an organism constituted with God's life as a realm of life for His ruling, in which He reigns by the divine life and expresses Himself in the divine life— John 3:3, 5-6; Matt. 6:10, 13.
    - John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
    - John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
    - John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
    - Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
    - Matt 6:13 And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
  - b. Today we, the called ones, should live in the church as the kingdom of God so that we may grow and develop in the life of God unto full maturity; through this growth and development, the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly supplied to us—Rom. 14:17; 2 Pet. 1:5-11.
    - Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
    - 2 Pet 1:5 And for this very reason also, adding all diligence, supply bountifully in your faith virtue; and in virtue, knowledge;
    - 2 Pet 1:6 And in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control, endurance; and in endurance, godliness;
    - 2 Pet 1:7 And in godliness, brotherly love; and in brotherly love, love.
    - 2 Pet 1:8 For these things, existing in you and abounding, constitute you neither idle nor unfruitful unto the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
    - 2 Pet 1:9 For he in whom these things are not present is blind, being shortsighted, having forgotten the cleansing of his past sins.
    - 2 Pet 1:10 Therefore, brothers, be the more diligent to make your calling and selection firm, for doing these things you shall by no means ever stumble.
    - 2 Pet 1:11 For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly and bountifully supplied to you.