

KNOW YOUR CALLING

Sermon by Todd Lester

May 10, 2015

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.
Ephesians 1:18-19

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY LIFE'S CALLING

1. MY CALLING IS A _____

Galatians 1:6 God ... called you to Himself through the loving mercy of Christ.
Also Timothy 1:9

2. I AM CALLED FOR GOD'S _____

Romans 9:11-12 But before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she [Rebekah] received a message from God. (This message shows that God chooses people according to his own purposes; he calls people, but not according to their good or bad works.) Also Ephesians 2:10

3. GOD CHOSE MY CALLING _____

Jeremiah 1:5 I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.
Also Galatians 1:15

4. MY _____ DON'T CHANGE MY CALL

1 Timothy 1:12-13 He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve Him, even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted His people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief.

5. MY CALLING IS _____

Romans 11:29 For God's gifts and His call can never be withdrawn.

6. MY CALLING IS _____

Ephesians 4:4 For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. Also Hebrews 3:1

7. GOD _____ WHAT HE CALLS ME TO DO

Ephesians 4:1 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.
Also 2 Thessalonians 1:11, 2 Thessalonians 5:24

8. THERE'S A PRIZE FOR _____

Philippians 3:14 (NIV) I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Also 2 Thessalonians 2:12

Take the Call!



Use the ideas below to share about experiences and how you feel about phones.

Reminiscences:

Best phone call ever

Worst phone call ever

Hardest call you ever had to make

Kinds of phones you've used – home, cell, pay, other

How you feel about phones – strongly, positive, negative, indifferent

When the phone rings I:

- Let it go to voice mail
- Run to answer it immediately
- Take a deep breath then pick it up
- Ask someone to get it
- Ignore it
- Panic
- Smile
- _____

My favourite way to communicate is by:

- phone
- email
- text
- Skype/Facetime
- face to face
- _____

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Icebreaker/Introduction

Todd shared that he doesn't really like phones as they act as interruptions or often bring bad news. That inspired the "Take the Call" activity, which simply has people share some of their experiences or feelings about phones/communication.

Ask if there was anything from this week's message that stood out – either a point that was made that really resonated with them, or perhaps a question or difficulty that came up for them.

Read Romans 8:28 and Ephesians 1:18-19

Todd mentioned that Romans 8:28 is a favourite verse for many. Do you have a scripture verse that has meant a lot to you?

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY LIFE'S CALLING

1. MY CALLING IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Focuses on Galatians 1:6 and Timothy 1:9

Do you think that it's more difficult to receive a gift in our society which is built on earning your way by yourself?

Todd said that God gives us what we need, not what we deserve. What do we need? What do we deserve?

2. I AM CALLED FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

Focuses on Romans 9:11-12 and Ephesians 2:10

Todd reminded us that God didn't make you for you, but that we are made by God and for God. What does it mean to you to be made for God? How can we live out that truth?

How do you feel about the statement that you are God's work of art or masterpiece?

3. GOD CHOSE MY CALLING BEFORE I WAS BORN

Todd emphasized that we are uniquely shaped in the womb (genetically modified – by God!) How do we interpret that in the light of children who are born with handicaps?

Todd pointed out that you are never too young to start living out God's calling. Is there a young person in your life who you could be encouraging to live out their calling? How could you do that for them?

4. MY SINS & MISTAKES DON'T CHANGE MY CALL

Focuses on 1 Timothy 1:12-13

Todd encouraged us that even the bad stuff that we do fits into God's plan for us. How does that work if we willfully sin against God or someone else?

Can you think of an example of bad things (either mistakes you've made, tragedies you've experienced, things others have done to you) from your past that you can see God has used to work for good?

5. MY CALLING IS PERMANENT

Focuses on Romans 11:29

What experiences have you had where others have tried to conform you to their expectations?

Todd said that while our calling won't change the expression of it can – the timing, the when, the where, the how. Explore the meaning of this idea.

6. MY CALLING IS CONNECTED TO OTHERS

Focuses on Ephesians 4:4 and Hebrews 3:1

What are some ways or experiences that you've had with others (at Westheights, with family, at House Church), where you feel you were fulfilling your purpose or calling?

What is one practical way that we can build up our community at Westheights?

7. GOD EMPOWERS WHAT HE CALLS ME TO DO

Focuses on Ephesians 4:1 and 2 Thessalonians 1:11, 2 Thessalonians 5:24

Can you think of a time when you felt unable to do something but then found that God gave you the strength (or wisdom, or courage, or willingness, or whatever was needed)?

Todd pointed out from Ephesians 4:1 that our calling is a lifestyle. What does that entail?

8. THERE'S A PRIZE FOR LIVING OUT MY CALLING

Focuses on Philippians 3:14 (NIV) and 2 Thessalonians 2:12

Consider Philippians 3:14 – which is more important to you: the race or the prize?

Do you have a vision of heaven? What does it include?

Todd said that life on earth is a test. How do you feel about that?

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Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them. Ephesians 1:18-19 I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called—His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him.

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY LIFE'S CALLING

1. MY CALLING IS A GIFT FROM GOD

Galatians 1:6 God ... called you to Himself through the loving mercy of Christ. Timothy 1:9 For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was His plan from before the beginning of time—to show us His grace through Christ Jesus.

2. I AM CALLED FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

Romans 9:11-12 But before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she [Rebekah] received a message from God. (This message shows that God chooses people according to his own purposes; he calls people, but not according to their good or bad works.) She was told, "Your older son will serve your younger son."

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

3. GOD CHOSE MY CALLING BEFORE I WAS BORN

Jeremiah 1:5 I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.

Galatians 1:15 But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by His marvelous grace.

4. MY SINS AND MISTAKES DON'T CHANGE MY CALL

1 Timothy 1:12-13 He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve Him, even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted His people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief.

5. MY CALLING IS PERMANENT

Romans 11:29 For God's gifts and His call can never be withdrawn.

6. MY CALLING IS CONNECTED TO OTHERS

Ephesians 4:4 For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

Hebrews 3:1 And so, dear brothers and sisters who belong to God and are partners with those called to heaven.

7. GOD EMPOWERS WHAT HE CALLS ME TO DO

Ephesians 4:1 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

2 Thessalonians 1:11 So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of His call. May He give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.

2 Thessalonians 5:24 God will make this happen, for He who calls you is faithful.

8. THERE'S A PRIZE FOR LIVING OUT MY CALLING

Philippians 3:14 (NIV) I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

2 Thessalonians 2:12 We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For He called you to share in His Kingdom and glory.