

“WHO ARE CALLED TO SALVATION AND WHY?”
1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-31

INTRO: Salvation is the GREATEST GIFT EVER OFFERED TO MANKIND! It is THE GIFT OF GOD to all sinners. It is THE ONLY MEANS for the forgiveness of sins for all humanity. It is THE KEY TO A LIFE that is worth living for all who receive it. It is the DOOR TO HEAVEN for all who call upon the name of the Lord. It is FREE TO ALL who desire it, even though it cost the life of the Lord Jesus. BUT HAVING RECOGNIZED those points, a theological question that has loomed before biblical scholars down through the centuries is: **“WHO ARE CALLED TO SALVATION AND WHY?”** This question has led some people to come up with a heretical, non-biblical answer that has led multitudes astray from the truth of scripture. So, to day we shall examine 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 to ascertain the TRUE ANSWER FROM THE WORD OF GOD WHICH IS OUR ONLY AUTHORITY TO FOLLOW.

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A BIBLICAL EXPLANATION OF THE PROCESS OF THE CALLING TO SALVATION

- 1) All humanity has sinned and are separated from God – Romans 6:23
- 2) All humanity has the opportunity to be saved – John 3:16; Romans 10:13
- 3) God’s desire is for all to come to salvation – 2 Peter 3:9
- 4) The call to salvation is open to all humanity – Revelation 22:14
- 5) The call to salvation comes by means of the conviction of the Holy Spirit to the lives of the unsaved – John 6:14; John 16:8,9
- 6) The call to salvation, if rejected, will mean eternal separation from Christ in the Lake of Fire – Matthew 22:11-14
- 7) The call to salvation, if accepted will mean eternal life with Christ in Heaven – John 14:1-6

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THE TEXT BEFORE US CLEARLY EXPLAINS WHO ARE CALLED TO SALVATION AND WHY

I. THE CALIBER OF THOSE WHO DO NOT COME TO CHRIST

VS. 26

NOTE: Three categories of those who “may not” be saved are listed in this text. But keep in mind that the “key word” of the text is “MANY.” Many in these categories will not be saved, but some have, are and will be saved,

A. The Wise

1. Those who are wise with worldly wisdom that is secular and godless.
2. They cannot understand the Gospel or how God can change a sinner into a saint.

B. The Mighty

1. Those who are strong in worldly power.
2. They are totally helpless in creating salvation.

C. The Noble

1. Those who are of great reputation through birth, riches or societal status.
2. They simply do not see the need for salvation.

NOTE: The world admires the birth, social status, the financial status, the power and the reputation of the WISE, the MIGHTY and the NOBLE. BUT NONE OF THOSE COMPONENTS CAN OFFER OR GUARANTEE SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE!

EXPLANATION: THE REASON WHY MANY OF THE WISE, THE MIGHTY AND THE NOBLE WILL NOT BE SAVED IS NOT GOD’S FAULT! THROUGH THEIR PRIDE THEY REFUSE GOD AND SO HE REFUSES THEM – JAMES 4:6

ILLUSTRATION: Matthew 19:23-26

II. THE CHARACTERISTIC OF THOSE WHO DO COME TO CHRIST – VSS. 27,28,30

A. Before Salvation – Vss. 27,28

1. They are Foolish – Vs. 27a – Spiritually and morally worthless
2. They are Weak – Vs. 27b – Spiritually infirm and sick
3. They are Base – Vs. 28a – Spiritually destitute and bad reputation
4. They are Despised – Vs. 28b – Spiritually valueless
5. They are “Not” – Vs. 28c – Spiritually empty

NOTE: These characteristics express the condition of ALL UNSAVED. Those who realize they have these characteristics and humble themselves before God are more apt to respond to the call of salvation.

B. After Salvation – Vs. 30

NOTE: God the Father, through Jesus Christ, performs a marvelous work in the characteristics of those who respond to the call of salvation! CHRIST BECOMES THEIR FULL AND TOTAL SUFFICIENCY!

1. Christ is the Wisdom of Christians – Vs. 30a (Cp. Colossians 2:3)
 - a. The wisdom of Christ replaces self/secular wisdom.
 - b. Thus godly principles can be understood and applied personally.
2. Christ is the Righteousness of Christians – Vs. 30b (Cp. 2 Cor. 5:21)
 - a. The righteousness of Christ makes a believer RIGHT with God.
 - b. This is the result of JUSTIFICATION where God DECLARES BELIEVERS IN CHRIST RIGHTEOUS.
3. Christ is the Sanctification of Christians – Vs. 30c (Cp. John 17:19)
 - a. Through Christ, Christians are SET APART unto God.
 - b. Through Christ, Christians can serve the Lord.
4. Christ is the Redemption for Christians – Vs. 30d (Cp. Romans 3:24)
 - a. Through Christ Christians are PURCHASED and therefore SET FREE from the market of sin.
 - b. Through Christ Christians are the POSSESSION of God and ETERNALLY SECURE in the Lord.

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE CONCERN FOR THOSE WHO COME TO CHRIST

VSS. 29,31

NOTE: The concern is that NO CHRISTIAN can, or even should, or does have the right to boast in himself about the salvation he has received through Jesus Christ. SALVATION IS ENTIRELY OF THE LORD! (Ephesians 2:8,9).

A. As a Matter of Fact – Vs. 29

-Believers have NO STANDING to glory in the flesh in the PRESENCE OF GOD over salvation because salvation is God's gift.

B. As a Matter of Focus – Vs. 31

-Believers have EVERY REASON AND RESPONSIBILITY to exalt the Lord for what He has done in our salvation! HOW?

1. Through Praise
2. Through Obedience
3. Through Service

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION:

- 1) Every believer has a moral obligation to God to rejoice in the salvation God has offered.
- 2) No believer should be proud in his salvation, his church, his religion, or in his spiritual leaders but rather **BOAST IN THE LORD** because **HE AND HE ALONE TOOK US FROM NOTHING BROUGHT US INTO HIS FAMILY. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**