

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

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Is God calling you? Or, has God called you? John Calvin was born in France in 1509. He published his famous book, the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, in 1536. Calvin believed God calls only a select number of people, a number which God himself has chosen. God's call is God's invitation! Is it true that God invites only a select number of people to Himself, or does He call everyone? Why does God call? Who does God call?

Hello I'm Larry Murdock. I preach for the Gandy church of Christ.

The old man Job asked this question, "What is man, that you make so much of him, and that you set your heart on him....? (Job 7:17) Job 15:14, says, "What is man, that he can be pure? Or he who is born of a woman, that he can be righteous?" The Old Testament Psalmist asked, "What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?" (Psalm 8:4) Another song says, "O LORD, what is man that you regard him, or the son of man that you think of him?" (Psalm 144:3)

Why does God care; why does God call? That is like asking "why does a Father care? Why does a Mother care?" God calls because He is our Father and we are His children and we are lost. Satan caused our downfall! Satan is a murderer; he is our enemy! That's right! Satan is the enemy of all mankind. I know this because every human being dies. It was Satan who brought death into the world! Satan inserted himself between God and God's human creation, which are made in God's image. (Genesis 1:26, 27; 3:1-5) God created His children so they could live forever. But Satan's lies brought about their death in the flesh! (Genesis 3:22-24) Satan knew it would happen. Satan knew the consequences of sin! Satan is a psychopathic murderer!

Are you concerned about your death? Are you concerned about what will happen to you after you die?

Well, Satan wants you to believe that nothing happens after you die. He wants you to laugh in the face of God's punishment, like a child who laughs while being spanked! Satan wants you to live your life in sin, in defiance of God, like a rebellious teenager who despises the love of his or her parents. Satan wants you to focus only on this world and the short selfish life it offers you. However, God wants you to live forever; He made your human spirit to live forever. Once a soul,

a human spirit, is created it will live forever. It is God's creation, God's child. God made you in His own eternal image. Satan has been lying to the human race from the very beginning of the world! I do not know why Satan is so murderously evil, but he is. There are some human psychopathic murderers like Satan and I don't understand them either.

On one occasion Jesus Christ explained why unbelievers did not believe what Jesus was telling them. "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me." (John 8:44-45 ESV) Jesus labeled Satan a liar and a murderer. And Satan's followers prefer Satan's lies rather than Jesus' truth! What do you prefer to hear? Why does God call someone like you? Because your heavenly Father wants you to know and to follow the truth! God wants you to be saved. God is motivated by His great eternal Love.

Friends, have you ever set out for a destination only to discover that you have taken the wrong road? At some point you realized that you were lost! Lost-ness is a bad feeling. A sorrowful dread comes over you. You don't know what to do next! You are lost! People who are following Satan are lost; they are in darkness. They are listening to and following the Devil's roadmap. The Devil is the prince of darkness, and He wants to keep you in the dark. On the other hand, God wants you to know the truth; He wants you to see the light; God wants you to understand! God sent His only begotten Son into the world to "seek and save" the lost. (Luke 19:10) On another occasion, Jesus put it this way, "I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. [However] The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me." (John 12:46-50 ESV) You see, what God has told Jesus to reveal will be our Judge, either for eternal life or for eternal condemnation!

On another day, Jesus described His purpose for coming into the world in these words, "... God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only [begotten] Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." (John 3:17-21 ESV)

You see, friends, the world of human beings is already condemned by our own sins. When we choose to follow Satan, as our first parents did, we make ourselves sinners and the judgment is condemnation. If you continue to believe Satan and follow Him then you will lose the destiny for which God has created you! You can be certain of this: the God who created all mankind will defeat Satan, and God wants you to stand with God for eternity. Through Jesus Christ, God is calling you to repentance because He cares. Will you repent? God is calling you to submission because He loves you! Will you submit? Will you answer God's call and follow the light?

Earlier I asked the question, Who does God Call? The answer to that question is on the last page of the Bible where we read, "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. [The "Spirit" is God's Holy Spirit who inspired men to write the Bible. The "Bride" is the church of Christ who preaches the Bible message of salvation.] "And let him that hears say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:17 KJV)

God's call to salvation is embedded in the good news of Jesus Christ and it is for everyone who is thirsty! That's right! When Jesus is preached from the pages of the Bible sinners are called to repentance. Jesus said, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Luke 5:32 KJV) Without my repentance there is no salvation for me! Jesus' apostle Paul put it this way, "But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as first-fruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you...." (2 Thes-

[salonians 2:13-15 NIV](#)) You see, in the "teachings" we can hear God calling. We hear WHY He is calling and WHO He is calling. God is calling whoever will listen! In the "teachings" we also hear WHAT God is calling us to. God invites us to share in the glory of Jesus Christ!

In Hebrews 3:1, the inspired writer describes God's invitation as a "heavenly calling." (NIV) In 2 Timothy 1:9, Jesus' apostle Paul described it as a "holy calling." Furthermore, Paul prayed for Christians that God "may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." ([2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 ESV](#))

God is calling His creation to glory. That glory is NOT in this world. That glory lives in the world to come. This planet has been contaminated by sin and its terrible consequences, culminating in the death of every creature and everything. Jesus' apostle Peter wrote that "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." ([2 Peter 3:10 KJV](#)) That destruction will occur on the day that Jesus Christ returns to the earth.

When Christ returns the cemeteries will be emptied! Jesus predicted that "**The hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.**" ([John 5:28-29 KJV](#)) So there is a resurrection of life, and a resurrection of damnation. God calls us to life through the teaching and preaching of the good news of Jesus Christ. Have you answered God's call? Let me ask that question in a different way. Have you even listened to God's invitation? Have you even considered it?

Visit a church of Christ near you and begin listening to the wonderful call of God!