

Theme: As a local church BRCC is called to encourage each member to realize the calling they have been given in Christ, to encourage devotion to Christ and His call upon us, and to equip and encourage believers to fulfill their calling in Christ.

I. Intro – Focal Point 2012

- A. Each year we have a focal point
- B. Something we really try to understand and grow
- C. This years focal point (slide)
- D. We will be studying Colossians, gifts to understand
- E. Today I will look at one passage to see this process
- F. Paul's longest intro - and it has all 4 ideas!

II. Called

- A. The idea of calling is foundational in this passage
 - 1. Paul called to be an apostle (v1)
 - 2. Paul calls Gentiles to faith, Romans called (vv5-7)
 - 3. κλητὸς - 10 times in NT - 3x in Romans 1:1-7!
 - 4. Implied in v5 “grace and apostleship”
 - 5. Implied in v14 “obligated”
- B. Several key ideas in ‘calling’
 - 1. Called by the Gospel to faith in Christ (v6)
 - 2. Called to a life separated to God, holiness (v7)
 - 3. Called to specific ministry and/or vocation (v1)
 - 4. Called - set apart by and for God (Lev 20:26)

C. This is the basis for all else

- 1. This is the root of who we are - God's called people
- 2. This is the beginning of Christian life & ministry
- 3. This gives hope & endurance in trials (Romans 8:28)

III. Devoted

- A. Several terms point to devotion in this passage
 - 1. v1 - Paul is God's servant/slave
 - a. OT roots in “servant of Yahweh”
 - b. Certainly shows authority as God's spokesman
 - c. But clearly Owned by God and devoted to Him
 - 2. v5 - motivation (His name's sake) and outcome (obedience)
 - 3. vv9-11 - Paul's passion in service & prayer
 - 4. vv14-15 - Paul's eagerness to fulfill his calling
- B. Understanding calling produces devotion
 - 1. When we see the beauty of salvation we respond!
 - 2. True calling to God produces devotion to God
 - 3. True calling of God (vocation) produces devotion
 - 4. Calling is the root - devotion the fruit

IV. Equipped

- A. Several terms point to equipping in this passage
 - 1. v7 - called to be saints - God's holy Ones!

2. v5 - grace & apostleship - Paul received from Christ
3. v11- spiritual gifts to strengthen us
 - a. Some do not think Paul means spiritual gifts here
 - b. I disagree - Romans 12:6-8 - grace and gifts
4. When God calls, He begins to equip us with gifts
5. But we can still receive more equipping - & need it!

B. Equipped by the power of the Gospel

1. We need to remember of power is in God
2. Gifts come from God and He does the empowering
3. vv16-17 - Gospel is powerful to accomplish its work
4. We must be trained - but remember power in Gospel!

V. Encouraged

A. Several phrases point to encouragement in this passage

1. vv2-4 - the objective basis - gospel & resurrection
2. vv6-7 - the subjective appropriation in benediction
3. vv11-12 - encouraged by each other's faith

B. Receiving and giving encouragement

1. As God's called people we should be encouraged!
2. As God's called people we should be encouragers!
3. This is not blindness to the pains of life
4. But it is support in this fallen world

5. This is realizing God has the final Word!
6. This is not stopping at Good Friday - but moving to Resurrection!

VI. Applying the Word

A. Have you heard the call of Christ?

1. This is the basis for all else
2. He is still calling all people to obedience that comes from faith
3. Have you responded to the Good News in faith?
4. Can you say 'I am the servant of Christ'?
5. Look to Him today!

B. Are you encouraged to be God's called people?

1. He has loved you from eternity
2. He has called you to Himself through the Gospel
3. He has made you His child forever
4. He has given you His Spirit and gifts
5. He has given you grace and peace through Christ
6. Be encouraged in Christ - and grow in devotion!

C. Communion - Fed By Christ

Called, Devoted, Equipped, and Encouraged

Romans 1:1-17
 February 5, 2012
 Communion
 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.

Leviticus 20:26

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:6–8

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16–17