

God has always been in the work of reconciling the world to Himself.

From the first sin in the garden, were Jesus said to the serpent;

Gen 3:15 *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*

Ie.

The Son of God will destroy the son of Satan (Antichrist).

And,

All the way to Mt 25 when Jesus said at the end of time:

v.32 *And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats: (The Final Judgment)*

Think for a moment how, just before God did a great thing, He called out one person.

And each "one person" was not expecting the call.

- Provide food for Israel during a drought -Joseph
- Release the Israelites from Pharoah - Moses
- Keep the Hebrews from being massacred – Esther
- Defeat invading armies – Gideon

These people were minding their own business, dealing with their own struggles and God called them.

Never underestimate what God will do with you.

I Cor 1:26 *For consider your calling, brethren,*

The "calling" goes to those who are called.

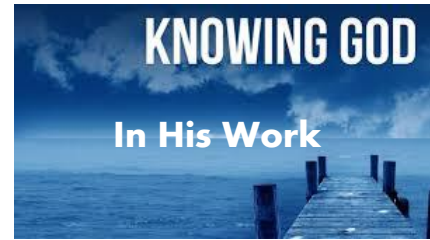
Question:

Who fare the called?

v.23 *but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,*

v.24 *but to those who are "the called", both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

Jude 1:1 *Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are "the called", beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:*



Rev 17:14 *These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are "the called" and chosen and faithful."*

So,

We've established that all followers of Christ are considered "the called."

I Cor 1:26 *For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;*

v.27 *but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,*

v.28 *and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,*

v.29 *so that no man may boast before God.*

Therefore:

To know God in His work:

1. Realize you have been called

Secondly;

2. Preparation precedes performance

There is always a preparation time before God uses you for His big thing.

- Joseph had to be humbled through his prison experiences (remember his dreams)
- Moses was 40 years in the wilderness after receiving an Egyptian education
- Esther became a queen in the king's court
- Gideon had to learn total dependence on God
- The disciples were 3 years with Jesus before He turned them loose on their own.
- At 12 years old, Jesus knew who He was but it wasn't until He was 30, that He began His ministry.

All various types of preparation and then God called them.

Your life is being prepared right now.

"Behold" - pay attention!

If it is not time, it will soon be.

3. Timing is everything, wait till Jesus calls you

If you get ahead of Him, you may not be ready or the situation He is calling you to may not be ready.

Some people are like the hunter who never got anything;
Ready – aim – aim – aim

The religious Jews were persecuting Jesus because He was doing good on the Sabbath.

Jn 5:17 *But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."*

Jesus said His Father was working, and it is the Sabbath!

v.19 *Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.*

Jesus is saying that He gets everything from His Father.

- His example
- His calling
- His marching orders
- What He sees the Father do, He does

And the Father loves Me!

v.20 *For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing;*

God has been active in your world too.

In order for Jesus to do what the Father was doing, He had to be sensitive to the Father's working.

And now that He is working in your world, you and I have to be sensitive to what He is doing in our lives.

- The trial
- The conflict
- The challenge
- The loneliness
- The loss

And so much more.

God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him and are called to His purpose. Rom 8:28

The Father loved the Son so He revealed to the Son what He was doing.

v.20 *For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing;*

Jesus says to His followers, (the called)

Jn 15:15 *No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

So far: To know God in His work:

- 1. Realize you have been called**
- 2. Preparation precedes performance**
- 3. Wait till Jesus calls you**

Finally;

- 4. Your invitation is your subordination**

Once you respond to His call, you now become subordinate to Him. Subordination is a life of adjustments.

You have a new calling.

II Cor 5:17 You are not who you were

I no longer do things the way I used to do them. At least I am learning not to.

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

v.18 God is the Reconciler

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

v.19 God's invitation

namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

v.20 Our new calling

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Summary:

1. God has always been working to reconcile the world to Himself
2. He called unexpected people to do great things with Him
3. Jesus is the example of listening to God and watching what He is doing
4. Learn to be sensitive to God in that same way in your own personal life
5. Let your life experiences and challenges prepare you for the call
6. When it is time, you will know it. Step up and into what God is doing.
7. You will begin to know God in a deeper and more meaningful way.