

Article Title— "What is Your Calling"

Article Category— The Visible Church

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Like millions of others among the naive faithful, I waited and prayed for years that the Lord would reveal His calling on my life. Meanwhile, I pursued things I enjoyed and was pretty good at doing. Those were secular pursuits for the most part. They yielded a good living and I had a ball! Still, though, I often thought God just didn't have a plan for me, except maybe to be a good adult Sunday School teacher and spokesman for my denomination's "what 'we' believe" franchise. Much later, I learned that He had been preparing me for TODAY. So, what was "my calling" during all the previous decades? It was to pursue things I enjoyed and was pretty good at doing! Might that be God's current plan for you, too?

Among the confusing messages of the visible church is that each of us should anticipate a "special" calling, much like the one Samuel experienced. The disturbing result? Many of the naive faithful come to believe that their preachers are "called" and the rest of us are "not 'called'." The vast majority of the professional clergy come to think that, too—at least subliminally. So, the presumed "not 'called'" regularly pack the bleachers to watch and cheer as paid professional Christians compete in "get'em all 'saved'" games on well-lit playing fields.

One of several problems with that is this: Jesus, in The Great Commission [Matthew 28:19,20], didn't command us to "get'em 'saved'." He commanded us (ALL of us) to make DISCIPLES of'em after they've heard and believed the Gospel message. Given that, whose "calling" is more important? And which "calling" has the potential to be more effective and more efficient? God isn't the author of confusion.

A valued correspondent wrote this on January 21, 2015: "When a naive believer fails to receive this 'special' calling, the door is left wide open for a preacher's voice to become 'the voice of God'—especially in those churches where there is preacher worship and the church dictates 'standards and convictions' for everybody."

This is how I responded—

Typically, it's a preacher or a parent or another zealous relative who fills that unfortunate perceived vacuum to become "the voice of God." As an example, my mom tried her best to make me into a preacher. But I'm convinced that her motives were purely subliminal:

- A. To be able to bask in the admiration of her would-be-preacher-mommas peer group
- B. To qualify her for special preacher-momma blessings in Heaven. The fact that her dad was a very well-known "super preacher" may've played a big role in that. She kept telling me I could become the next Oral Roberts and such as that. Hmmm...

Read 2 Corinthians 11:5 in several Bible versions to understand why I've used the term, "super-preacher," here.

Aside from yielding to such carnal motives, my mom was a godly woman who would stop to actually get onto her knees and pray for me several times every day. Her prayers were worthy and appropriately effective. They may've been responsible for my acquisition of discernment. Along with that and a touch of wisdom, I've learned to lean more to my God-given intellect than to my feelings in matters of importance:

- > "The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it?" —Jeremiah 17:9
- > "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool..." —Proverbs 28:26

And there's this: "My people are destroyed for lack of [righteousnes?] [sincerity?] [worship?] [hyperspirituality?] [prayer?] [holiness?] [regular church attendance?] [believing "what 'we' believe"?) [faith?] [getting "truly 'saved'?"] [becoming full time paid professional christians?] knowledge..." —Hosea 4:6

Want to gain knowledge? In "church," people learn what to study...to confirm denominational DOCTRINES. To begin learning how to study God's written word...to gain the knowledge of TRUTH...visit www.Link1.info often.

Here's my take on all this: The janitors, grass-cutters and nursery workers in the visible church will receive much greater rewards in Heaven than ANY of our paid professional christians, who – with their glorious titles of "reverence" and pompous attire and follower's accolades (and followers' dollars) – have already received their reward.

—T. C. Newsome

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens

