



Sermon
Rev. Dr. Lang Yang

“God Who Has Called You”

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
St. Paul Lutheran Church
1-15-17

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

1 Corinthians 1:9 *“God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

This is the word of God. (Cross Reference – Deuteronomy 7:9, Isaiah 49:7, Romans 8:28, 30, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Corinthians 1:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:24)

Illustration “Important”

(Show people talking on telephone)



One of the most important and valuable thing that the human had created is the telephone. We use it everyday in our lives. Young and old can't live without it. But there are time that we are aggravate or agitated because when we are least expected, our telephone ring and it can be botherson and annoying. Such time as this is that when we are still sleep, eat, meeting and others important matter that we are attending to. Still, the telephone has been so convenient that whenever we need to call our spouse, our children, our friends or our employer, all it takes is just press a

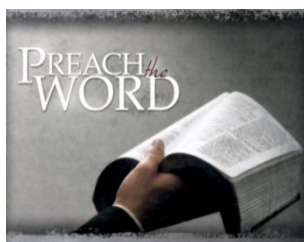
name or number for fast dial or just punch a few number and we are connected to the people that we need to talk to.

I. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, if God were calling you on the telephone, would you answer the call? (Show God Calling)



What if you decided to answer the phone and hear God's voice saying to you, "Hello this is God" would you be frighten or burst into joy? What if God's voice continue saying, "I want to meet you, teach the Gospel to you, and invite you to God's house" how are you going to response? Some of you will surely be very afraid and some of you will be excited. Off course you know that God will not call you on the telephone. Eventhough God's may not call us on the telephone, He had already called us through the Gospel through the Bible of His Holy Word. His word encourages us to believe and trust Jesus as Lord and Savior so that we may

have life. While we are here on earth, we are to do His work because He will return soon to take us to be with Him and have eternal life forever and ever. He's calling you to worship and praise Him and received His Sacrament for the forgiveness of sin. (Show Preach the Word)



If you think carefully, when God's called us to have faith in Him, it is just like we pick up the telephone and His Word are speaking to us. This is similar to our Epistle Lesson today, when the Apostle Paul write his first

letter to encourage the Corinthians and us today that God's is telling us to go and preach the Gospel to the world so that others may be saved through His name. (Show the Apostle Paul conversion)



When we read and saw how God's called the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus, Paul said in Vs. 1 *"Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God ..."* (1 Corinthians 1:1). If you look at the situation, it is God who called Paul. If we were to compare to today, we can assure that when God called, Paul pick up the telephone and wait for God's instruction. The instruction was for Paul to become God's Apostle and go preach the Gospel to people. (Show praying at meeting of calling a pastor)



For example when there is a vacant in a congregation, a committee is formed and discuss to see who will be the best pastoral candidate to be considered to be called to serve the congregation. It takes the congregation and God to call the pastor to carry out the duties of proclaiming His Gospel to God's people. We called this a "Divine Call" that the Holy Spirit and the congregation work together to call a pastor. On the human side, the congregation will consider all the possibilities of background, education, and past experience of

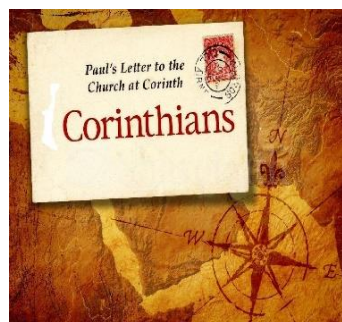
men that will be considered to lead God's people in the congregation. But the ultimate decision is God's decision. He chose the right men for the right congregation to carry out His work so that His salvation can be proclaimed according to His will. (Show Pastor and Members)

II.



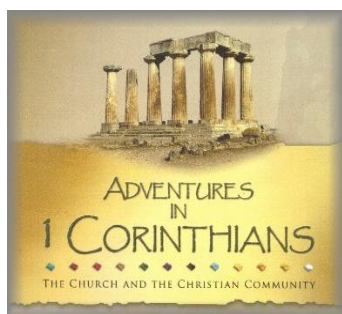
When pastors are placed in a congregation, a pastor cannot alone do all the work of making disciples and other areas as needed to proclaim God's salvation. In order for the congregation to grow so that His salvation can be proclaimed to others, it will take pastors and members of the congregation to fulfill God's Great Commission because God's called each person into fellowship with Him so that His Good News can be preached to the end of the world.

(Show Paul letter to the Church at Corinth)



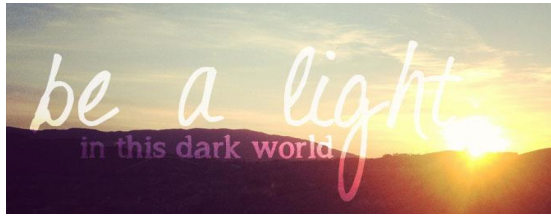
In Vs. 2 the Apostle writes, *"To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:"* (1 Corinthians 1:2) God's called each one of us to be His children, His disciples, and to be God's family. But too many refused God's grace and still live in sin and refuse to accept God's way to eternal life. When life became too difficult, many of us forgot to call upon God to teach us His way so that we may live according to His will.

(Show Christian at Corinth)



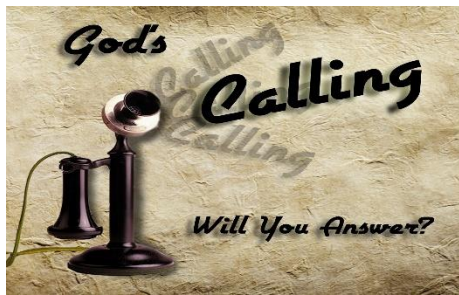
The Apostle Paul writes, *"I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."* (1 Corinthians 1:4-9)

III. God's has called you to faith in Jesus Christ. (Show be a lighth)



You are to go and be a light to the dark world so that other may be save through His name. All Christian job is simply to tell others about Jesus. When others hear about His saving grace, the Holy Spirit will call them to faith. You plant the seed, water with God's Word, and God will make it grow.

Do you remember how God's called you to faith? Some of you were called when you were just an infant. Through your Baptism, you grow and learn His word. Some of you were called because your friend, spouse, co-worker brought you to church and you hear the Gospel. Now it is your job to call others to hear God's saving grace. (Show God's calling you)



Many of us are afraid to called upon others to have faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. There was once a story was told that a co-worker was working with his friend for two year. One day they were eating lunch and he finally told his co-worker that he was a Christian. His co-worker answer him, "I have known you for two long years and you have never once told me that you are a Christian. You have never invited me to your church. I have never see you pray during your meal."

When hearing these statement, are you in a similar situation like the worker that had never told his co-worker that Jesus Christ is his Lord and Savior? Many Christian are afraid or embarrassed to share their faith with their friend, co-worker, and even their family that God had called them to faith for a long time. (Show King Henry III)



In the eleventh century, King Henry III of Bavaria grew tired of court life and the pressures of being a monarch. He made application to Prior Richard at a local monastery, asking to be accepted as a contemplative and spend the rest of his life in the monastery. "Your Majesty," said Prior Richard, "do you understand that the pledge here is one of obedience? That will be hard because you have been a king." "I understand," said Henry. "The rest of my life I will be obedient to you, as Christ leads you."

"Then I will tell you what to do," said Prior Richard. "Go back to your throne and serve faithfully in the place where God has put you." When King Henry died, a statement was written: "The King learned to rule by being obedient." When we tire of our roles and responsibilities, it helps to remember God has planted us in a certain place and told us to be a good accountant or teacher or mother or father. Christ expects us to be faithful where he puts us, and when he returns, we'll rule together with him.

(Steve Brown, Key Biscayne, Florida.) (Show Send Me)



The Holy Spirit has called you to be Christ disciple. Be obedient and answer His call. You should be able to answer confidently as the prophet Isaiah did, "*Here I am Lord, send me.*" (Isaiah 6:8) Because "*God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*" (1 Corinthians 1:9) Amen.

Now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.