

## “Divine Callings and Determined Faithfulness”

Hebrews 3:1-6

September 3, 2023

**Hebrews 3:1-6** *Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, <sup>2</sup> who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. <sup>3</sup> For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup> (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) <sup>5</sup> Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, <sup>6</sup> but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.*

STRUCTURE (of passage ...ie, the flow, the 'emphasis', the surrounding context)

- "Therefore" ...
- "Consider Jesus" ...
- A Summons (a group Rally Point) to "FAITHFULNESS"!

**BUT... There is Something MASSIVE sitting in the "Background" of This Passage! ...Who is this passage speaking to? ...What characterizes their lives, that is going to make a difference when they go to "DO" anything in their lives?**

ILLUST: "Tom Brady is the GOAT and holds the record for most touchdowns in NFL History!"

v. 1 ... "Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling"      v. 6 ... "...we are His house"

(1) Insights on Callings

(2) Our Focus on Faithfulness

### **(1) Brief Insights on Callings**

NOTICE the “Unique & Weighty Words” — “Holy” ... “Brothers” ... “a Heavenly CALLING”

“Calling” = Gk. ‘klēsis’ (from which we get the word for “church” –‘ekklēsia’)

...In Scripture THIS is Integral to the “Manner” in which we “do life”—THIS informs our attitudes & actions—and most importantly for the Hebrews, their FAITH & HOPE!

**1 Cor. 1:26-31** *For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”*

...The Corinthians are a famous N.T. church ...most famous for the amount of dysfunction among them. ...When Paul seeks to ADJUST them—He opens in Chapter 1 with a focus on their “CALLING”!!

**Rom 8:28-30** *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.<sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.<sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

...These are BIG Backstory Thoughts/Concepts!!

v. 28 ... **There is divine interference and orchestration taking place in the geography (or neurology) of our circumstances!** ...GOD is the "doer" in this mysterious arena!

v. 29 ... **The "CALLED" are an identifiable group.**

v. 29 ... **This "Calling" 'comes forth' from the 'realm' of God's FOREKNOWLEDGE and his PREDESTINING**

- Big, Meaningful Words that inform my sense of DAILY HOPE as to whether I have the right anticipation and expectations for my life!!

**Eph 1:4-5** *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love<sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will*

**2 Tim 1:8-9** *"... share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,<sup>9</sup> who saved us and **called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began***

**...This is MASSIVELY Informing to How we Approach Our Understanding of the Substance and Nature of our Relationship with God!!** ...NOT because of our works— BUT because of his OWN PURPOSE and GRACE (BEFORE the ages began)!! ...

#### **“Big Doctrinal Words” MATTER!!**

“IF we would influence thoughtful persons it must be by solid arguments. Shallow minds may be worked upon by mere warmth of emotion and force of excitement, but the more valuable part of the community must be dealt with in quite another manner. When the Apostle Paul was desirous to influence his son in the faith, Timothy, ...he did not attempt to affect him by mere appeals to his feelings. Paul felt that the most effectual way to act upon him was to remind him of solid doctrinal Truth of God which he knew Timothy believed.

This is a lesson for the ministry at large. Certain earnest preachers are incessantly exciting, but seldom, if ever, instructing them. They carry much fire and very little light. ...A religion which is based upon, sustained, and maintained simply by excitement will necessarily be very flimsy and unsubstantial, and will yield very speedily to the crush of opposition or to the crumbling hand of time. ...Scriptural doctrine furnishes us with powerful motives to urge upon the minds of Christians.”

**Charles Spurgeon**, “Salvation Altogether by Grace” (Spurgeon's Sermons, The Complete Set (63 Vols.))

“...the Apostle, in order to excite Timothy to boldness — to keep him constant in the faith — reminds him of the great doctrine that the Grace of God reigns in the salvation of men! ...he gives in this verse a brief summary of the Gospel, showing the great prominence which it gives to the Grace of God, with the design of maintaining Timothy in the boldness of his testimony for Christ. .” **Charles Spurgeon**, “Salvation Altogether by Grace”

**...This is exactly what Hebrews is doing as well—a “brief reminder” of a VERY WEIGHTY Concept (Our Heavenly CALLING—and all that it means!)—in order to “keep them constant in the faith”!!**

v. 30 ... "THOSE" (the Foreknown & Predestined) are the "CALLED"

v. 30 ... "THOSE" Called are assured of being Justified and Glorified!!

**1 Cor. 1:26, 30-31** For consider your calling, ...<sup>30</sup> And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,<sup>31</sup> so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

...Our "CALLING" is Filled with lots of "BECAUSE of HIM"!!!

**Rom 8:28-30** "...all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."<sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.<sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

...Our "Calling" involves HIM DOING A LOT!!

"The point here is that there is a kind of divine call that creates what it calls for. This is why it is not nonsense to call for a child to be born or a dead man to rise. Jesus illustrated this kind of call as he stood before the tomb of Lazarus, who had been dead four days... Now, in one sense, it is perfectly pointless to command a dead man to come out of the grave—just as it is pointless to tell an unborn child to follow the instructions in the birth manual. But it is not pointless if the call itself contains the creative power to give life to the dead."

John Piper, "Providence", p. 529

...What if this "Heavenly Call" contains its own abiding power? ...What if this Heavenly Call has God's power operating in it? ...in unseen places ("all things work together for good") ...in us ("sanctified", "justified", "glorified")

## (2) Focus on Faithfulness

**Heb 3:1-6** Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,<sup>2</sup> who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house.<sup>3</sup> For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself.<sup>4</sup> (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)<sup>5</sup> Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later,<sup>6</sup> but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

...This is a Wonderfully Simple Focus Formula!! ...God's Heavenly Calling—is at work all around us in mysterious ways!! ...it is ALWAYS hastening us toward His Purpose!! (even when it is obscured by the Noise of this Fallen World!)

**1 Peter 5:6-11** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,<sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.<sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.<sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.<sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.<sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- This "Heavenly Calling" is Operating In Their Lives—in the Seen & Unseen! ...What comes with His Calling is His Accomplishing!
- The Noise of Life (here) includes: ...v. 6 – "Timing" ...v. 7 – "Anxieties" ...v. 8 – "Spiritual Attacks" ...v. 9 – "Suffering"

...What Do I Do in the midst of all of my "Life-Noise"?? ...Keep It Simple!

**BE FAITHFUL** (Like those “Called” before you!) —i.e., ...**Heb. 3:6 hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope**

[Heb 3:1] "There is no conflict between the teaching that all true believers are safe in the hands of God and the teaching that emphasizes that Christians must persevere in faith. All true Christians will continue in the faith until they are gathered to God. But it is also true that true Christian faith is proved only by steadfastness under trial. We are saved by faith alone, but the test of our faith comes through our willingness to persevere under difficulty and persecution. ...

If you are a Christian, God will call you to show courage before the world, holding fast to your hope in Jesus Christ. But where does courage come from? The Bible's answer is that it comes from God, from our knowledge of him and his salvation, and from the Holy Spirit he sends to his children as they trust in him."

**Richard Phillips**, Hebrews, (Reformed Expository Commentary)

[Heb 3:1] The privilege of being called by God is coupled with a command. The charge is not difficult and complicated, and the brothers are able to comply with it. They are asked to fix their thoughts on Jesus and to do this diligently. "Thessalonians, the Pastorals, and Hebrews" (New Testament Commentary Series **Hendriksen-Kistemaker** (12 Vols.))