

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

Chapter 1- Introduction **Jude 1**

3. Called and Chosen

WOSM Wednesday 11/7/07; WPAS Wednesday 04/23/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse journey through the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to look at what Jude taught about being "Called and Chosen"- so let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 1** again together: together:

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:

Now we have seen so far who Jude was and now we need to understand to whom he writes this letter. Jude tells us that he is not writing this letter to the average Joe on the street- but Jude says here that he wrote this Epistle:

... To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:

So, we see that Jude writes to the "Called" and to the "Beloved in God the Father" and to the "Kept for Jesus Christ".

And the first thing I want to do is address those whom Jude said were "called" first. So just what does it mean to be called? Well, the word that was translated here into English as "called" is the Greek word, *kletos*, which means: *to be chosen*.

And this word has to do with predestination and Sovereign election- a subject that many people in the modern Church won't touch with a fifty foot pole. But as I said on the very first broadcast- I am going through this Epistle of Jude verse by verse and line by line and precept by precept and so here we are- in the very first verse- already confronted in God's Word with a subject that is very controversial and very deep.

So just what should we do at this point? Should I try to avoid this issue? Well, I can't avoid it- this word, "called" is right here in verse 1- so if I am going to study Jude with any degree of honesty at all- I am forced to discuss the issue of what it means to be "called" because God the Holy Spirit put this issue in the Bible.

Dear friends- should we avoid discussing things that we find in God's Word simply because they may make us feel uncomfortable or uneasy or because they may challenge some of our own closely held beliefs? Do we not have an obligation as God's children to deal rightly and fully with every subject that God put in His Word with the very same degree of enthusiasm and the very same degree of love and respect?

Here is what we can be sure of. Verse 1 of the **Epistle of Jude** says that this entire Epistle was written to people that Jude says were called by God- so now we can say with absolute certainty that the issue of God calling people is in the Holy Bible. So now we must struggle to find out what that means.

Now I don't know how much you have heard or been taught about God's sovereign calling or what is called predestination or Sovereign Election- but I can assure you that what the Bible says about God predestinating those whom He saves is an insult to the arrogant pride of Man. And so even though Man would *like* to believe that he is the one in charge- even in Salvation- the Word of God is clear about this issue- God calls and chooses those whom He saves. For example- Jesus said in **Matthew 22:14**:

For many are called, but few are chosen.

Now over in **Romans 1:1**- the Apostle Paul said that he didn't simply *assume* a position of leadership in the Church; he didn't simply "feel led" to preach- but he said that God "called" him to be an Apostle.

Romans 1:7 tells us that people do not simply "make a decision" to follow the Lord, as so many teach today. Saints of God do not choose the Lord- the Bible says that the Lord chooses them. Let's read that verse together:

to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible says here that Paul was *called* or *chosen* to be an Apostle and the Bible says that we were *called* to be saints. So, who called us? Did we call *ourselves*? Do we somehow make or cause ourselves to be saved? Do we have the power to simply decide one day to serve God? Just Who is in charge of our Salvation? Is Man the Master of his own destiny, as so many teach today, or is God the One Who is Sovereign? Does Man have absolute Free Will to choose to serve God or to choose not to serve God, or was the Free Will of Man totally corrupted and radically ruined in the Fall as were his relationship with God; his physical life; and his emotions?

If Man is fallen- just how fallen is he? A little; a lot; or totally? If God is Sovereign, just how Sovereign is He? A little; a lot; or completely?

Does the supernatural miracle of Salvation originate from the depraved will of fallen Man or does the wonderful and glorious miracle of the New Birth originate from the Heart and Mind and Will of an Almighty God? I hope you can see that the stakes here are enormous and so we need to know what God's Word says about this.

For years I was taught that fallen Man has a free will. I was taught that with this free will- Man had the ability to choose to be saved or he could choose to reject God. I was taught that even though the immortality of Adam was destroyed in the Fall to the point that all men are now mortal and all men will die and even though all of Man's emotions (love, anger, wrath, jealousy) are now completely corrupted by the Fall- that even though all of this is true- I was taught that somehow- and nobody really taught me just how- but that somehow- Man's Free Will to choose to be saved was somehow left untouched by the Fall. I was taught that, and I believed it. But over the last several years- God has dealt with me intensely about this issue and I began to search the Scriptures for the answer.

Brothers and sisters, we need to understand exactly what is at stake here. If Man's Free Will is supreme; and if Salvation is simply a matter of man *choosing*, or of simply "*making a decision*" to accept Christ as Savior- then ultimately Man is in charge and if that is true- then God is not Sovereign. But if God is Sovereign- then God is in charge of Salvation- which means that Man is not. But both cannot be true- and the Bible only teaches one of these- that God is indeed Sovereign- even over Salvation.

Again, let us understand what the Bible is saying by looking at the Bible. We have already learned that Jesus indeed said in **Matthew 22:14** that many are called. We have also learned from examining **Romans 1:1**, that Paul did not take it upon himself to be an Apostle- but that God *called* him to be an Apostle. And we have also learned that saints do not *choose* to be saints, but that they too are *called* to be saints according to **Romans 1:7**. So just from this- we can already see four things that we now know to be true:

1. God calls Man- Man does not call God
2. Man does not choose God- God chooses Man
3. People do not take it upon themselves to be in the ministry- but God must call them for ministry.
4. Saints cannot make themselves to be saints of God- but they must be called by God to be saints.

In **Matthew 22:14**, Jesus connects two different words together. “Called” and “Chosen”- and we have already talked about what “called” means, but what does the word, “chosen” mean?

Now there are five Greek words that are used in the New Testament as “chosen”. But by far, the strongest of these words is *haireo*, which means: ***to take for yourself, and to choose beforehand***. And this same Greek word was used in **2Thessalonians 2:13**, when the Apostle Paul wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit:

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. (emphasis mine)

And this is not the only place in the Bible where it says that. Over and over in the Bible- God tells us of His Glorious Master Plan to choose unworthy sinners *before* we were ever born- yea before He even created the world- so that- in God’s timing- we would come to Christ and that we would be born again and that we would be forgiven and that we would be made whiter than snow by a Sovereign act of God’s Grace and Mercy to us. Listen to the infallible Word of the living God: in **1Corinthians 1:27-29**

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,

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,

29 so that no man may boast before God.

Ephesians 1:4-6

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

James 2:5

Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

1Peter 2:1-10

2 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

6 For *this* is contained in Scripture: "**BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.**"

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "**THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,**"

8 and, "***A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE***"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.

9 But you are ***A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION***, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10 for you once were ***NOT A PEOPLE***, but now you are ***THE PEOPLE OF GOD***; you had ***NOT RECEIVED MERCY***, but now you have ***RECEIVED MERCY***.

Revelation 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.*"

I tell you that we serve a Sovereign God who is in complete and totally in charge of all things- including our Salvation. And we need to worship this Sovereign God and we need to honor Him in all that we do. We need to glorify and magnify Him in all our actions and in all our deeds, because He is worthy to be praised; He is worthy to be adored; He is worthy to be honored and He is worthy to be obeyed.

The Bible says that we were chosen in Him before the foundations of the world. The Bible says that we were chosen for Salvation and the Bible says that we were called to be saints. Listen to what the Bible says about those who are called and those who are chosen in **Romans 8:30-39**:

30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(emphasis mine)

It was precisely because of the Assurance and the Certainty that Paul obtained through the knowledge of his own Sovereign Choosing that gave him the confidence to say what he said here.

Jude wrote to "the called." And I tell you that God has called, and God has chosen, and God will draw those whom He called, and God will deal with those whom He has chosen and God will wash them and God will save them and God will sanctify them and God will empower them and God will preserve them and one day God will glorify them with all the glories of Heaven.

Well, I'm out of time for today- but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

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