

**"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)**

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“The Called and the Chosen”

*“All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The
grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.”
(1 Peter 1:24 & 25)*

*“You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special
people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness
into His marvelous light;” (1 Peter 2:9)*

*“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”
(1 John 2:6)*

Dear reader, occasionally I am led to go back into the archives of letters written in years past, and resend them. This is one of those messages. I have revised it from its original form which was dated April 1997. As it was then, the message is just as fresh for 2009; even more so, as time grows shorter for each of us. Truly, the hour is late, the storm clouds are growing more ominous and spiritual darkness covers the land. Spiritual deception is now the rule rather than the exception, within the ranks of those who profess to be followers of Christ. There has never been a more critical time to hear the Voice of “the One who calls” ----- May He grant us the grace not only to hear, but “to follow”.

“The Call” (Revised)

“For many are called, but few are chosen.” (Jesus – Matthew 22:14)

This verse of scripture in Matthew 22:14 and the teachings of our Lord found elsewhere in the Scriptures that support the certainty of its truth, have held my attention for many years. I have listened to the debate as to the meaning of “the called”. Are all men called, or are only a select few called?

There are two key words found in Matthew 22:14. They are “many” and “few”. It seems clear from our Lord’s words that in fact “many” are called, but it is also clear that “few” are chosen. The big question then becomes who among those called are chosen? Will those that we (you and I) choose be

those chosen, or will those who God chooses be the ones chosen? I think we would probably all agree that God will do the choosing and not man.

One must ask the question, what marks that one who is chosen? We, believe we understand Father's plan of salvation; and are familiar with the steps one takes to become a Christian; but are these steps alone sufficient to be included as a part of "the Chosen"? As I began to reflect on this verse of Scripture, these words immediately come to me ----- "Follow Me". Follow Me! My mind echoed with the simple words, Follow Me, Follow Me, Follow Me! If you are to be one of the chosen, you must "follow Me"! That's it! That is the answer to the question of who will be called "the chosen". The chosen are those who follow Him.

At this point it seemed that I had the answer, but there was more. Following Him was more than believing in Him. If we only believe in Him but choose not to follow Him, we should not expect to be chosen by Him.

"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe --- and tremble!" (James 2:19)

Believing is the easy part. There is no sacrifice in believing. However, following is quite a different thing. My good friend and brother Wayne Smith puts it this way. "It is one thing to quote the Pledge of Allegiance), but something else to join the Army!" One might say it is one thing to believe in Jesus, but something else to Follow Him.

"As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, Follow Me. So he arose and followed Him." (Matthew 9:9)

Go back to the above scripture, and insert your name in place of Matthews. Insert your workplace or your home in place of the tax office. I believe that Jesus is calling you and me to Follow Him. What was Matthew's response to "the call"? Notice that "he arose and followed Him". Can you ----- will you, insert yourself into this last sentence?

"Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." (Mark 8:34)

What is your cross? I asked myself the same question and the answer was troubling to me. I believe that "our cross" might very well be a greater degree of separation from the world and the world's system of doing things. I believe that that cross might be turning from all debt and relying on God's provision. That cross might be walking away from a job that is hindering one's spiritual growth. That cross might be turning away from all social activity that is not centered in and around the King of Kings. That cross might be reducing one's material possessions to a minimum and blessing others who have not been so blessed. That cross might be cutting all ties to every organization that is not clearly stamped with the name of Jesus; where He receives all the praise, honor and glory. That cross might be turning over the dinner plate and fasting as you spend hours in prayer. That cross might be recognizing that your physical body is a holy temple and must be treated as such as you turn from the spirit of gluttony or deny yourself tobacco. Your cross might be setting aside a season of time where you make yourself feed on the Bread of Life and you guard that time against all intrusions. That cross might be

coming to the realization that you are putting family ahead of God and of God's order as you turn to Him with all of your heart, mind, and soul.

As I hear the Holy Spirit speak, asking probing questions, I am troubled. I am troubled because I hear the call and realize that there are areas of my life where I am holding on to the world ---the flesh, --- that which He calls us to release. Are you holding on? Do you hear His call but refuse to arise and follow Him? Who rules you, your flesh or your Father? How long will we tarry before catching up with Him?

“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake And the gospels will save it.” (Mark 8:35)

“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.” (John 12:26).

Again, insert your name in the above scripture. As we follow Him, we serve Him, and as we serve Him we are where He is!

Somehow we have gotten it into our minds that the Christian walk (being included as one of the chosen), is less than a “sold out” walk. I believe that concept is a lie from hell and a lie that has caused untold numbers to be cast into outer darkness. This lie is even preached from many pulpits around the world, as that ancient enemy of our Father wages his war of deception against those who are “called”. I beg you in the name of Jesus Christ, do not listen to this lie. There is not one shred of evidence from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 that teaches anything but total abandonment to Jesus Christ, in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells (Colossians 2:9).

I have become fully persuaded that the main reason that many of those who are called do not feed on Father's word, is that they know His word is true. Their flesh knows that it does not want to hear what the Spirit of God says, because they will have to Arise and Follow Him! Our enemy will do all within his power to keep us out of God's word, even including sending deceiving spirits that appear to be angels of light, when in fact they are demons of the pit! I beg each of you, turn from anyone who denies the certainty of Father's word. They are deceived, they are liars and they will be exposed. You do not want to be found in their presence.

I challenge you dear reader, take hold of your life ----your flesh-----and begin as never before to feed on God's holy word. I'm talking about feeding on, soaking in, and digesting the “Truth”. For those who have not done this, you will be shocked, as I was. For many, many years I was ruled by the flesh and the lies of compromise. Once I immersed myself into Father's word, under the tutorship of the Holy Spirit, I was shaken to the very foundation of my being. I discovered that what was being preached in much of the world was not what Father said, or it was only a part of what Father said. A partial truth, mixed with untruth, becomes a lie. You see our enemy will allow just enough truth to make us comfortable. Much like sedating an animal before it is led to slaughter.

I believe, if you are reading this message, you are being called. Some have answered the call and have risen up and are following Him. Some of us have heard the call but are attempting to Follow Him “at a distance”. Still others may have heard the call, but until now, have refused to Follow Him. As time for

each of us winds down, we are experiencing an extended season of Father's grace. He loves us so much that He desires that each of us ----- you and I, not just believe, but Follow.

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Matthew 7: 13, 14)

There are certain things in life that are absolutes, regardless of what we might think or believe. One of those absolutes is God's word. God's word cannot and will not be altered in any way. His, is the only Word, and the only Way! To the extent that we Follow Him we are equally blessed. To the extent that we fail to Follow Him we suffer. This is His order and like it or not we can't change it. Someday each of us will find out that His word is true, complete, alive and Holy; and that all else, regardless of how well intentioned, was nothing but a lie.

“FOLLOW ME”

“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow HIS steps:” (1 Peter 2:21)

Your brother,

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Thomas

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)