



NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
DR. AARON L. CHAPMAN, PASTOR
23455 W. NINE MILE ROAD
SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN
PHONE: (248) 353-0675
WEBSITE: www.newhope-mbc.org

2026 ANNUAL THEME: *“Hope in Motion”* →

BIBLE STUDY

March 18, 2026

“The Called: Why Are We Called?”

(1 Peter 2:9)

Topics

- Scripture Reference
- Reflection Questions
- Important Emphasis
- Key Terms and Definitions
- Outline
- Introduction
- Background and Context
- Explore The Text
- Check For Understanding
- Life Application

Scripture Reference:

“But you are a chosen people, 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;...” (1 Peter 2:9 NASB).

Reflection Questions

A. In today’s culture—where identity is often shaped by achievements, labels, or social media—what are some common “voices” that try to define who you are?

B. Many people feel isolated, overlooked, or unsure of their purpose right now. Where do you see that in our communities, workplaces, schools, or even churches—and how does the truth of being “called” speak into that reality?

Important Emphasis

The Call

A call is an invitation or summons by God to fulfill a mission or particular function. The Hebrew term is *qara*. *Qara* is not restricted to one event or person, but used in many different ways, including naming, calling a nation into relationship with God, an invitation, and as a divine call to mission.

The term call or calling is often used of one being called by God to salvation and service. There is a calling to Christian service Paul refers to this directly when he was called of God. **Galatians 1:1 and Romans 1:1**

A divine call is motivated by an inward urge to preach (or minister) the gospel. *E Theophilus Caviness*.

Call will be presented as the inward assurance that by whatever means or method, a person has become absolutely convinced that they are called to the work in which God has summoned them.

Words associated with Calling is:

- Summons
- To proclaim
- To cry to God for help
- To choose

Abraham	Gen 12:1-9
Moses	Exodus 3:1-21
Samuel	1 Samuel 3:1-18
Hosea	Hosea 1:1-3
Isaiah	Isaiah 6:1-8
Jeremiah	Jeremiah 1:1-19
Ezekiel	Ezekiel 2:1-10
Gideon	Judges 6

God's gracious call does not lead to laziness. The Apostle Paul admonishes his readers to strive with all their God given strength to live lives worthy of the calling they have received. **Ephesians 4:1**

Call Stories

Six parts

- Divine confrontation
- Introductory word
- Commission
- Objection
- Reassurance
- Sign

Stories of individuals being called to a life of discipleship are a common feature of religious and philosophical biography in antiquity. The importance placed on the initiative of Jesus and the demand for an immediate and unconditional response on the part of the perspective disciples **Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11 and John 1:35-51**

New Testament call stories also may refer to an invitation to relationship with God as well as a summons to a specific function or mission.

In order for a call to succeed, the initiative must come from Jesus himself, and the prospective disciple must respond immediately and unconditionally. **John 15:16, Mark 1:17 Mark 10:21,** Chreia or anecdote, a brief narrative relating a striking saying or deed of some individual. Example: Elisha request to Elijah to return back home and bid his family farewell. **1Kings 19:20** It is just this kind of precondition that is explicitly rejected by Jesus in **Luke 9:61-62.**

Context of Calling 1 Peter 2:9

- Peculiar People
- Possessed by Providence
- Premier Practice

Chosen race (*genos eklekton*) Genos means a group of people understood to have a common ancestor. 1 Peter to apply this title to his audience is to praise them as valuable, worthy, and important. God’s creation of the recipients as race / priesthood/ ethnic group dedicated to God to announce the mighty deeds of God Mighty deeds is the plural of the word *arete* meaning virtue.

Key Words and Terms

Allegiance
Asia Minor
Called
Chosen
Commissioned
Consecrated
Divine
Eternal

Identity
Minority culture
Peculiar
Predestined
Redemptive
Selection
Sovereign
Transformative

Outline

- I. Chosen – Called by God’s Sovereign Grace
- II. Consecrated – Called to Holy Identity
- III. Commissioned – Called to Proclaim His Glory

Introduction

This Bible study marks the beginning of a new series focused on the theme of **Calling**—one of the most profound and life-shaping truths found in Scripture. Throughout the Bible, God consistently reveals Himself as One who calls people: calling them into righteousness (**Isaiah 42:6**), calling them out of darkness (**1 Peter 2:9**), calling them into relationship and into purpose (**Romans 8:28-30**), and calling them to participate in His redemptive work (**2 Timothy 1:9**). Calling is not reserved for a select few; it is a defining reality for all who belong to Christ.

In this opening study, **“Why Are We Called?”** we begin at the foundation by examining who we are *because* God has called us. Before we explore what we are called *to do* in later lessons, we must first

understand what we are called *to be*. 1 Peter 2:9 provides a powerful identity statement for believers, reminding us that calling precedes action and purpose flows from identity.

Background and Context

The book of 1 Peter was written to believers scattered throughout Asia Minor who were experiencing social pressure, misunderstanding, and various forms of suffering because of their faith in Christ (**1 Peter 1:1; 4:12**). These Christians were a minority culture, living in a hostile environment that challenged their allegiance to Jesus. Peter writes to encourage them to stand firm, reminding them that their present struggles do not negate their eternal identity.

Within this context, 1 Peter 2 emphasizes the believer's new identity as God's people. Drawing language from the Old Testament (particularly **Exodus 19:5–6** and **Isaiah 43:20–21**), Peter applies covenant promises once given to Israel to the New Testament church. In doing so, he affirms that believers—regardless of background—are now God's chosen people, called out of darkness to live distinctly and to declare God's glory in the world.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

I. Chosen – Called by God's Sovereign Grace

"But you are a chosen people..." (1 Peter 2:9a)

The theme of divine selection is a cornerstone of Christian theology, emphasizing the profound and sovereign grace of God in choosing His people. This section explores the biblical foundation of being chosen by God, highlighting the eternal, sovereign, and predestined aspects of this divine calling. Through scriptural references, we delve into the mystery and majesty of God's plan, which unfolds from eternity past and manifests in the lives of believers, guiding them towards a transformative journey of faith and salvation.

A. Eternal Election

The concept of divine or eternal election is a profound theme throughout the scriptures. In **Ephesians 1:4–5**, it is revealed that we are chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, highlighting the eternal nature of God's plan.

B. Sovereign Selection

Similarly, **John 15:16** emphasizes that it is not we who choose God, but rather He who chooses us, underscoring His sovereign initiative. This theme is echoed in **Deuteronomy 7:6–8**, where God chooses a people not because of their merits but because of His love, illustrating His grace and purpose.

C. Predestined Path

Furthermore, **Romans 8:29–30** speaks of those whom God foreknew and called, indicating a predestined relationship that leads to glorification. Finally, **2 Thessalonians 2:13** affirms that we are chosen for salvation through sanctification, reflecting the transformative journey of faith initiated by God's choice.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon declared that Peter was not ashamed to address the saints as the *elect* of God, for so, indeed, they are if they are saints at all. It is He (God) who chose them, not because they were sanctified, but that they might be sanctified—chose them to eternal life through sanctification. Oh, happy are they who by grace have made their calling and election sure, and now ascribe all the glory of their salvation to the sovereign choice of God.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Chosen (Called by God’s Sovereign Grace)

1. What is the difference between being “chosen” by God and being “approved” by people? Where do you feel tempted to seek approval more than you rest in God’s choice?

2. How should being God’s “chosen generation” reshape the way you view your past mistakes, present struggles, and future hope?

EXPLORE THE TEXT

II. Consecrated – Called to Holy Identity

“...a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, ...” (1 Peter 2:9bcd)

In the journey of faith, believers are called to embrace a sacred identity that aligns with divine purpose and holiness. This section explores the profound calling to be a part of God's "royal priesthood" and "holy nation," as described in the scriptures. Through understanding our priestly purpose, engaging in sanctified sacrifice, and being identified as “a people for God’s own possession (NASB)” or “peculiar people (KJV),” we are invited to transform our lives and reflect God's holiness in every aspect of our conduct.

- A. **Priestly Purpose: Exodus 19:5–6** calls God's people to be a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation," emphasizing their unique role and divine purpose.
- B. **Sanctified Sacrifice: Romans 12:1–2** encourages believers to present themselves as "living sacrifices," highlighting the transformation of mind and spirit as they are set apart for God. **1 Peter 1:15–16** urges believers to be "holy in all conduct," reflecting God's holiness in their daily lives and underscoring the transformative journey of holiness.
- C. **Peculiar Possession: In 1 Peter 2:9c**, being a "*peculiar possession*" of God, as described in the King James Version, signifies a special and unique relationship

between believers and God. This term highlights the idea that believers are set apart as *God's own special people*, chosen for a distinct purpose. It emphasizes their unique identity and role in God's plan, reflecting a deep sense of belonging and value. This identity calls believers to live in a way that proclaims God's excellencies and demonstrates His transformative power in their lives.

Christians Are Unique

Charles Haddon Spurgeon relates a story about Christian peculiarity or uniqueness: "You're quite unique," someone remarked to a Christian. "Thank you," the Christian replied, "that's what I aim for, as Peter says, 'You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession' (**1 Pet 2:9**)." The other person added, "But there's something about you that feels odd, and sometimes I can't stand being around you." The Christian responded, "Thank you again, because you're confirming our Lord's words, 'But because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, for this reason the world hates you' (**John 15:19**)." Indeed, if you never seem different to worldly people, if they never mock or criticize you, and if there's no noticeable difference between you and them, it might be because you're not truly a child of God. ~ Charles Haddon Spurgeon

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Consecrated (Called to Holy Identity)

3. "Holy" means set apart. What are practical ways a believer can live set apart without becoming judgmental, withdrawn, or self-righteous?

4. As a "royal priesthood," we represent God to people and people to God (through prayer, compassion, and witness). In what areas of your life may God be calling you to represent Him more intentionally?

EXPLORE THE TEXT

III. Commissioned – Called to Proclaim His Glory

"...that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9e)

In this section, we explore the profound calling bestowed upon believers to be active participants in spreading the message of faith. Through the teachings of scripture, followers are encouraged to illuminate the world with their righteous deeds, embrace the global mission of discipleship, and rely on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to bear witness to the transformative power of the gospel. This divine commission invites believers to step out of

darkness and into a life of purpose, proclaiming the glory of the One who calls them into His marvelous light.

- A. **Shining Saints: Matthew 5:14–16** encourages believers to let their light shine, living visibly righteous lives that inspire and guide others.

- B. **Global Gospel: Matthew 28:19–20** outlines the Great Commission, instructing followers to make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them to observe all that Jesus commanded. Where do we find “all that Jesus commanded”? All that Jesus commanded can be found primarily in the four Gospels of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These books contain the teachings, parables, and instructions of Jesus during His ministry.

- C. **Empowered Envoys: Acts 1:8** highlights the role of the Holy Spirit in enabling believers to be witnesses to the ends of the earth, spreading the gospel.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Commissioned (Called to Proclaim His Glory)

5. 1 Peter 2:9 says we are called “that you may proclaim...” What are some every day, natural ways to proclaim God’s praises in conversation, conduct, and choices—especially in environments where faith is challenged?

6. What does “out of darkness into His marvelous light” look like in real life? Share one example of how God has changed your perspective, habits, or direction—and how that change can become part of your testimony.

LIFE APPLICATION

Think about it!

- Based on this study, which part of your calling do you most need to embrace right now: **Chosen** (identity), **Consecrated** (holiness), or **Commissioned** (mission)? What is one specific step you will take this week to live it out?

- Who in your life needs to experience God’s “marvelous light” through you—your prayer, your presence, your words, or your invitation? What is one practical way you can move toward them this week?

Resources:

Adult Questions for LESSONMaker, LOGOS Bible Software

Barnes Notes on the New Testament.

Enns, Paul P. *Moody Handbook of Theology*. Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

Galvin, Dr. James C., Veerman, Rev. David R., Barton, Dr. Bruce B., and Lucas, Daryl J. *Life Application Bible Studies*. © 1999 by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Database © 2006 WORDsearch Corp.

Spurgeon, Charles. 2014. *Spurgeon Commentary: 1 Peter*. Edited by Elliot Ritzema and Jessi Strong. Spurgeon Commentary Series. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.