03 -- DIVISION -- CALL TO HOLINESS -- (FEB. 7-16)

 7. He that calleth you. -- Thessalonians 5:24.

 Who calleth? God. Calleth you to what? To entire sanctification and to lifelong blameless preservation of your whole spirit and soul and body (see verse 23).

 8. God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth (rejecteth -- margin), despiseth not man, but God. -- I Thess. 4:7,8.

 Irreligion calls us to uncleanness; false religions with their unclean gods call us to uncleanness; but our pure religion calls us away from all uncleanness to all holiness. God's nature, character, word, administration -- all call us to holiness. Christ's example and teachings call us to holiness.

 9. Called to be saints. -- Rom. 1:7, and I Cor. 1:2.

 Saintliness is our high calling's glorious hope. God's call to sanctity is clear, unmistakable, emphatic, winning and imperative.

 10. Whereunto he called you by our gospel. -- II Thessalonians 2:14.

 Reference to verse 13 shows that God hath from the beginning chosen and called us to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit. So that the very essence of the gospel is our call to heart-purity -- to full salvation -- to entire sanctification -- to the fullness of the Spirit Have you heeded the call? If not, will you now?

 11. Who hath saved us and called us with a holy calling. -- II Timothy 1:9.

 The holy calling comes to those who have already been saved in pardon, in conversion, in regeneration. God is now calling all such to holiness.

 12. The God or all grace who hath called us unto his eternal glory, . . . after that ye have suffered awhile make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. -- Peter 5:10.

 This calling is not to holiness at conversion -- it is after you have suffered a while -- nor is it a call to be made perfect in heaven -- for after God has wade you perfect, St. Peter prays that he may stablish, strengthen, settle you; so this is a call to holiness somewhere between your conversion and your crowning in glory. Shall it be now?

 13. As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. -- I Peter 1:15.

 Our calling binds us to behavior such as becometh holiness -- not only becoming our own holiness, but becoming God's holiness. It is to be a godly holiness -- a holiness that is God-like. It is to be a holy conversation that is like God's holy conversation. "Conversation" here means "conduct;" but the lip is part of our life; so we are called to be holy in lip and in life like God.

 14. That ye may know what is the hope of his calling. -- Ephesians 1:18.

 One hope of this calling is the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints

(same verse).

 15. We pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling. -- I Thessalonians 1:11.

 Three things are included in this calling, as set forth in this verse and the one that follows: (1) the fulfillment of all the good pleasure of his goodness, (2) the fulfillment of the work of faith with power, (3) the glorification of Christ's name in us. If the accomplishment of these three things is not entire sanctification -- what is? Therefore to be counted worthy of this calling is to be counted worthy of entire sanctification.

 16. What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. -- Acts 10:15 and 11: 9.

 No one likes his work discounted -- especially if it is a work that he considers extremely desirable and important. For that very reason, God seriously objects to having what he has cleansed counted and called common. If you discount the work of cleansing in any human heart and life, you incur the fearful responsibility of discounting a work of entire sanctification that God may have actually wrought. Yet how many criticize all too freely on those who claim that God has cleansed them

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