

# The Call Of Heaven

No. 52

## Introduction.

- I. **Years ago Fridtjof Nansen, the explorer, tried to measure the depth of the ocean.** He used a long measuring line. When he discovered he had not touched the bottom, he wrote in his record, “Deeper than that.” The next day he tried a longer line only to write, “Deeper than that.” Several times he tried longer lines. Finally he fastened all his lines together and let them down. But his last record was like the first, “Deeper than that.” He left without knowing the depth of the ocean.
- II. This is also true of God’s love. We may try to measure the depth of God’s great love, but we will fail.
  - A. We must say of His infinite love, “Deeper than that.”
  - B. Jn. 3:14-16; Rom. 5:8; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Jn. 3:1; 4:9,10
- III. Today, I have chosen to speak to you on the “The Call of Heaven.”
  - A. God is a wonderful, merciful God who gave His beloved Son on the cross for the sins of all men.
  - B. He wants all men to be saved and He calls men in diverse ways to come to Him.
- I. **Bible** - God calls men through the Bible.
  - A. All through the Bible we read of God’s infinite love for man and what He has done to save man. All through the Bible we hear God calling sinners to repent and come and enjoy the sweet blessings of salvation.
    1. We hear His call **in the book of Isaiah.** (Isa. 1:18).
    2. We hear His call **from the lips of His beloved Son.** (Matt. 11:28-30).
    3. Again we hear His call **in the book of Revelation.** (Rev. 22:17).
  - B. These invitations were given to you and me and every person on the face of the earth.
    1. God invites every person to leave the way of sin and sorrow and come and let Him cleanse him and set his feet on the road to heaven.
    2. God invites every person to come and partake of the abundant life found in Christ Jesus.
- II. **Christians** - God calls men through Christians.
  - A. I have heard lost men say, “**I wish those Christians would let me alone.**”
    1. But we can’t do it. God has commanded us to “persuade men” and we must obey Him.
    2. We have found Christ and know the joys to be found in Him. We have tasted of the Lord and found Him sweeter than the honey comb. We must tell others about Him, that they, too, might enjoy this sweetness.
  - B. Many a person has come to Christ because some Christian loved Him and took the time to teach Him the words of life eternal. Many a person has come to Christ because he could see Christ living in one of His followers and he wanted that kind of life.

C. Yes, God calls men through Christians. Oh, don't resist the voice of God as He speaks to you through some Christian loved one or friend. Submit to that calling.

III. **His Goodness** - God calls men through His goodness. (Rom. 2:4).

A. When **a boy loves a girl** he does everything in his power to prove it.

1. He **sends her flowers** and says, "You are more lovely than any flower." He **sends her a book** and says, "You are more interesting than any volume."
2. But no lovesick boy ever sought to show his love as much as God seeks to show His love for lost sinners.

B. Jesus said that God "maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust." (Matt. 5:45).

1. James said. (Jas. 1:17).

- a. Every meal that one eats speaks of God's goodness.
- b. Every night that one sleeps, every paycheck that one draws, every time that one looks in the face of a loved one, he is experiencing the goodness of God.

2. God has been good to each one of us and this should make us grateful. This should make us repent. This should lead us to God.

3. How can we say "no" to the One who created us, who gave His Son for us and who blesses us with every good and perfect gift!"

IV. **Through Fear** - God calls men through fear. (Matt. 3:7; 25:41, 46; Rom. 11:22; Heb. 2:3; 10:31; Rev. 21:8).

A. **God has much to say in His word about hell.**

1. Hell is described as a **place of eternal fire**. God teaches in His word that the wicked will be cast into the flames of hell and will burn forever and ever.
2. He says that men will cry out for mercy and none will be granted. It is a hopeless, helpless situation from which none can be delivered.

B. This terrifying fact has led many to repentance. They turn from their sins and come to the only One who can save them from the endless hell.

V. **Trouble** - God calls men through trouble. (Psa. 119:71).

A. There are some who will not read the Bible, who will not listen to the pleas of Christian friends, who do not recognize the goodness of God, who ignore His warning.

1. So in a last desperate effort God sends trouble to bring them to His side.
2. Some think this is a harsh way for God to deal with men, but it is certainly not as bad as leaving

them alone and letting them go to hell.

- B. There are some eyes that will never see Jesus unless those eyes are washed with tears. There are some hearts that will never open up to the Savior unless they are crushed with sorrow. So God sends trouble that they may see their need for Him and come to Him.
  - 1. Many a person has said, "I would never have come to know Christ without the storms of life."
  - 2. Many a person has said, "I would never have come to know Christ if I had not lost this loved one or friend."
  - 3. **Shakespeare** said, "Sweet are the uses of adversity" and I might add its sweetest use is to bring us to God.

**VI. Through The Cross Of Jesus** - God calls men through the cross of Jesus. (Jn. 12:31, 32).

- A. Jesus came to this world and died a painful, horrible death on the cross for our sins. He allowed the Roman soldiers to drive spikes into His hands and feet for our sins. He allowed the Roman soldiers to mock Him and drive a spear into His side for us. He allowed Jesus to suffer for all our sins and suffer the punishment we deserve because of sin.
- B. How can a man look at Jesus suffering excruciating pain on the cross in our behalf and still say "no" to God? How can one spurn and reject God's invitation?
- C. The cross has motivated and compelled millions to accept Jesus.

**Conclusion.**

- I. Truly, God calls men through the gospel in many different ways.
  - A. He is calling you today. He wants you to enjoy His rich blessings. He wants you to be saved forever.
  - B. Don't spurn His loving call. Don't wait for a more convenient time. Don't wait for some mysterious feeling.
  - C. God is not going to reach down and shake you or fill you with some unexplainable feeling. No miracle will be worked to lead you to repentance. You must use the love and good judgment with which God has endowed you to make up your own mind. You must listen to your heart and love God back.
- II. We urge you to come to Christ.
  - A. Come and put your trust in Christ and be baptized and receive the rich blessings God gives His children.
  - B. Come now as we sing.