

# THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD



**APRIL 9, 2017**

## **Living Faith Chapel, Calgary (Solution Center)**

### **WORD FOR THE WEEK**

#### **UNDERSTANDING DIVINE CALLS**

It is a wonderful experience to be in the presence of the Lord once more. We are grateful to Him for giving us the grace to be alive, to have a roof over our heads and clothes on our bodies. To appreciate fully what great privilege you enjoy by having shelter over your head, visit the downtown area of the City to see the homeless freezing in bitter cold. If you take out some time to visit the big hospitals in the City, you would appreciate God the more for giving you good health, that you can move around unaided in a wheelchair, and that you can put food in your mouth yourself. You can never thank Him enough, but please do your best to give Him the very best of your gratitude.

This Word for the Week is in continuation of our theme for the month of April: "Divine Calls and Ministry Gifts." There is a distinction between the call to serve in the public ministry of the Word (**Eph. 4:11, Titus 1:5, Rom. 10:14-17**) and the ordinary calling to do the work of the universal priesthood of all believers while engaged in secular vocation or position in life (**I Pet. 2:9, I Cor. 7:17**). God, of course, is the one who does the "calling" in both of these instances, for it is He alone who brings people to faith in Christ and who equips them with his grace and necessary gifts to carry out the "calling" wherein he has placed them. But when speaking of the call to do the work of preaching/teaching the Word in a public setting, the Bible sets this apart as a noble office which requires deepest respect and careful adherence to certain qualifications (**I Tim. 3:1-7**). When a man receives a call into the office of the pastoral ministry, he views this call as divine, trusting that God Himself has drawn him into the vital work of being a pastor by means of a group of Christians extending the blessed right and invitation to serve them in such a capacity.

Unlike the prophets and apostles who received the calling to publicly preach the Word in a very direct way ("immediate") from God, often by means of a direct revelation, pastors today are called through the method of the church issuing a call in the name of the Lord. But the man who accepts such a call is to view it as being no less divine than the calls received by the prophets and apostles. It is rather unfortunate that many today think of the calling of a pastor as being little different from the ordinary "callings" of Christian lay people in various walks of life. There is no command in Scripture for a person to be called into artwork, nursing, engineering, etc., though God does, lead people into these secular occupations in oftentimes unique ways. There is, however, a command from the Lord to appoint preachers teachers of the Word of God by means of the decisive issuance of a call on the part of a group of Christians.

The question to you and me today is: "Are we heeding the call of the Lord? Do we identify the call when it comes, and are we using the spiritual gifts with which we are endowed?" Let's pray and ask the Lord for a clear call and the ability to use our spiritual gifts to His glory.

# CARRY YOUR BOOKS?

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

- 1 PETER 5:7 NIV

NOTE: If you have been blessed by our Word for the Week or inspired in any way by them, please let us know by sending an email to The Pastor at [pastor@rccglfc.org](mailto:pastor@rccglfc.org)