

# IS GOD CALLING YOU?



**T**HE COMMON idea of today's Christian world is that a battle is taking place between God and Satan. The idea teaches that God is trying to get everyone saved, and Satan is trying to get everyone lost. *If* that be true, then every honest person will have to admit **GOD IS LOSING!**

The vast majority of all people on earth today do not even profess Christianity. Yet, your Bible says there is no other name under heaven through which we can be saved (Acts 4:12). Many millions of people have lived and died without ever hearing the name of Jesus Christ. What about those people? What about those who live only a few hours? What about those who are destined to be damned?

**ABSOLUTELY NOT! EVERYONE** will have a chance!

## Specific Calling Necessary

The *shocking* fact is, *God is not trying to get everyone saved now!*

It is a lack of understanding of God's plan that causes the evangelists to shout: "Give your heart to the Lord before it's too late!" The inspired Word of God reveals that **NO ONE** can come to Jesus Christ **UNLESS THE FATHER SPECIFICALLY CALLS HIM** (John 6:44).

In other words, this is **NOT THE ONLY DAY OF SALVATION!!** This is an absolute fact of your Bible.

All those who are *not* now called, or given a chance for salvation, will come up in the *second* resurrection. They will come up as physical human beings and be given their one and only chance for salvation. This resurrection takes place one thousand years later, after what Bible students call "the millennium."

Most professing Christians are in ignorance of this basic truth. Why such ignorance in an enlightened age? Why can't a people who bear the name "Christian" understand the simple statements of the One whom they claim to follow? It was Jesus Christ who said to His disciples: "... It is given unto

*you* to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is *not* given" (Matt. 13:11). He explained to His intimate followers that they had been called. He said: "... I have chosen you out of the world" (John 15:19).

The Bible is filled with positive **PROOF** that all Christians must receive a *divine call from God*.

## Understanding Clouded

Astounding as it may seem, God has deliberately clouded the meaning of His message so the vast majority cannot understand. God explains in Isaiah 28:10-13: "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little... that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken."

God purposely wrote His Word so that it could be misunderstood. He intended that only those whom He is calling and choosing will understand.

Do you understand God's Word? Is God calling *you*? How can you know?

## How God Calls and Chooses

Many misunderstand how God calls. Some feel God calls by means of an audible voice. Others feel it is done by drastic intervention, such as accidents or fires. Still others desire a "good feeling all over" to be assured of a calling.

What is the truth? How does God call? Have *you* been called and *chosen* of God? The answer is really very easy to understand. Simply stated, God calls *by His Gospel and through the power of His Holy Spirit*.

The Gospel is the good news of the coming government of God and is recorded in the Bible — God's Word to mankind. Through the power of His Holy Spirit, God opens the minds of those He is calling so they can understand the plain truths of His Gospel message. God's Spirit begins to work in a special way with those whom He is calling.

## What God's Spirit Will Do

How is the Spirit of God manifested in those whom He is calling? How does the Spirit of God work upon and through the human mind?

Initially, the Spirit of God will lead

the one being called to *believe He exists!* In this age of skepticism and doubt, it is chic to deny the existence of God. But if God's Spirit is working with you, it will be impossible for you to deny God's existence. It is a sign that God may be calling *you!*

Also, God's Spirit will guide you to prove and profoundly *believe* the Bible is the inspired Word of God — God's Instruction Book to mankind. God's Spirit will lead you to *know* "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Tim. 3:16.)

How can anyone really believe the Bible if he feels portions are uninspired? Yet, this is exactly what many "Christians," so called, believe today! Some regard the Old Testament purely as historical literature. Some go so far as to teach that the book of Revelation is the writing of a man obsessed with hallucinations.

Others say only the epistles of Paul should be accepted. **WHAT NONSENSE!**

All this doctrinal confusion is a direct result of choosing certain portions of the Bible to believe — refusing to accept all Scripture as given by inspiration of God.

We either believe **ALL** the Bible, or none of it. It's as simple as that. Jesus Christ said: "... The scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). He said the Scriptures make a complete chain — they do not contradict one another. Yet, books have been written to expose assumed Bible contradictions. But Jesus said Scripture does not contradict itself.

Every supposed contradiction is the result of either a mistranslation or a misinterpretation. Unless you approach the Scriptures with this truth, you cannot hope to grasp the full meaning of God's Word. You will fool yourself into believing the Bible is full of contradictions and cannot be depended upon.

If you believe the Bible is God's Word — that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God — and that "the scripture cannot be broken," *God may be calling you!*

Another way God's Spirit guides those whom God is calling is to inspire them to take God at His word —

believe He says what He means and means what He says. Those whom God is calling through His Holy Spirit will believe the simple statements recorded in the Bible without coloring them with a myriad of preconceived ideas.

If God is calling you, His Spirit will lead you to believe Christ did not come to do away with God's Law but to fulfill and perform it (Matt. 5:17). You will believe the Kingdom of Heaven is not *in* heaven, but here on earth. You will believe the plain statement that the meek shall inherit the earth — not heaven (Matt. 5:3, 5).

If God's Spirit is working with you and *calling* you, you will reject the pagan idea of an immortal soul. You will believe the statement in Ezekiel 18:4, 20, that the soul is not immortal but can die!

You will begin to understand that virtually everything you have been taught about the Bible is probably the antithesis of the actual truth. Space will permit only the above few examples, but there are many dozens and scores of misunderstandings about what God actually says which could be pointed out.

If the Spirit of God is leading you, it will direct you to understand the plain truths of His Word.

In addition, God's Spirit will show you that you should **NEVER** try to interpret the Bible: "... No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation" (II Peter 1:20).

Many cannot understand Scripture because they have not learned the Bible interprets itself! Many supposed contradictions occur because men have not learned to let the Bible interpret itself. Through diligent and earnest study, we can understand perplexing verses only in the light of other scriptures.

For example, Revelation 12:3 mentions a "great red dragon" with seven heads and ten horns. There have been many *interpretations* of this verse. Some say the dragon is the false prophet. Others say it is the beast. Still others claim the dragon is mysterious symbolism picturing Red Russia or some form of Communism. But none of these *interpretations* is right.

God doesn't tell us in verse three

what the great red dragon is. Reading verse three alone we would have to conclude we just don't know. Or we would have to come up with an interpretation. Or we could **LET THE BIBLE INTERPRET ITSELF!**

If we choose to let the Bible interpret itself, all we need do to **KNOW** what the red dragon represents is to read verse nine. In verse nine God reveals that the dragon is "that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan."

If God is calling you, His Spirit will eventually lead you to believe every statement of the Bible, and you will let the Bible interpret itself! But this isn't all.

God's Spirit will lead those whom He is calling to **LIVE BY EVERY WORD OF GOD!** (Matt. 4:4.) To really understand the Bible, it is paramount to live by every word of God, not just some portions or pet doctrines. Most professing Christians accept some Bible truths, but for the most part, they walk in dismal error. How can they live by the Word of God when they don't even know what it says? It is an appalling fact that the majority of professing Christians can't even name the first four books of the New Testament — the four Gospel accounts — the Gospel which they must believe!

Candidly speaking, nearly **ALL** professing Christians are **NOT WILLING** to live by every word of God. Some deliberately reject all but a relatively small portion which has no bearing on their personal lives. God gives understanding *only* to those who are willing to live by all of His Word!

Another way God uses His Spirit to call His people is by convicting and convincing them of His way. If God is calling you, you will begin to fully understand the Bible for the first time. You will begin to read and study the Bible with the appetite of a starving giant. And you will come to see there is a way that *seems* right to a man but ends in death (Prov. 14:12).

Man's way is the grasping, greedy, selfish way of "getting." It is a "do unto others before they have a chance to do it unto you" philosophy. It is the way of lust, envy, strife, murder, jealousy, wrath, drunkenness, revelings and the like. It is the cause of *all* man's

troubles, heartaches and sorrows. It is the reason for the wretched conditions we see on earth today.

If God is calling *you*, His Spirit will convince *you* to begin to candidly, honestly, wholeheartedly admit *you* have been going man's way, the *way that leads to death*. You will begin to dedicate your whole life to God and His way. You will say, and mean it, "Thy will be done." You will repent!

Through Bible study and close contact with God, you will begin to see the whole world really is on the brink of cosmocide because of man's way. You will come to know assuredly man is reaching the end of his rope. Man desperately needs help. And God is the only one who really has the answers to all this world's problems.

The answer to man's problems is simply to follow God's way of love — the way of outgoing concern — the way of giving, sharing, helping — the way of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you. It is the way to real happiness, joy, peace, contentment — the way of gentleness, goodness, meekness and self-control. It is based on the principle Christ gave to His disciples that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

If God is calling, convicting and convincing you of His way, you will begin to have inner peace. You will begin to fully trust God to solve the world's problems through His way of love. You will know and realize God truly has the answers. You will rejoice in the fact that God is giving the answers to those He is calling. If God is calling you, you will come to fully understand and know God's own physical people are actually being destroyed for a lack of this knowledge (Hosea 4:6). You will see the urgent need to *have a part in the very Work* that is disseminating this vital knowledge.

You will zealously *take part in the* way of peace, happiness and joy brimful and running over.

This world is lost in a hopeless morass of confusion, wretchedness and depravity. Any thinking person will admit it can't go on much longer.

If God is calling you, *please understand* it is a fantastic, almost over-

whelming calling to *God's way, that leads to life*.

### Is God Calling You?

If you, are beginning to believe the Bible means exactly what it says — you are being called *right now!*

Are you willing to live by every word of God — believe the Gospel and respond to the call from Almighty God to be among the firstfruits in His Kingdom?

Remember, those whom God is calling will have a part in saving this chaotic world. They will have a part in the wonderful World Tomorrow. They will have a part in turning "the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers" (Mal. 4:5-6).

And finally, they will have a part in the Kingdom of God as kings and priests under Jesus Christ who will be *here on this earth ruling all nations as King of kings and Lord of lords*.

It is a fantastic calling *you now have*. No wonder Paul was inspired to write in Hebrews 2:1-3: "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation."

The call is out! It is a wonderful calling! You have heard, and read, and seen. The next move is yours! □

