

"THE COMPANY OF THE CALLED"
JOHN 3:27-30

W7483

I suppose that the most important impact that has ever been made on human history has been the ministry of the first century church. In this regard,

ACTS 17:6

tells us that these were the people that turned the world upside down. In the New International Version, it says, THESE WERE THE PEOPLE THAT MADE TROUBLE EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD. Now when you analyze that statement, it becomes obvious that these were people who had a divine calling. And out of that divine calling came a divine anointing. And that divine anointing gave them the power to impact history in a way that no other people have ever done so. And when we analyze it further, we understand that they were called because they had a divine visitation. In

ACTS 2:4

THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BEGIN TO SPEAK IN OTHER TONGUES AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE AND THEY WERE DIVINELY VISITED BY GOD. They were called through a divine vision. In

ACTS 1:8

we can hear Christ telling them, BUT YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER, AFTER THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS COME UPON YOU. AND YE SHALL BE WITNESS

UNTO ME IN JERUSALEM, JUDEAH, SAMARIA AND UNTO THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE EARTH. And this was the message that was preached. (baby crying) Well, that's too bad, I'm sorry about that, (laughter) bless it's heart. O.k. You know, usually preaching put people to sleep, it didn't work that time, (laughter) I might have woke that one up, you never know, there's just no way that you can please everybody is there? (laughter)

But you see, this divine vision was found in

ACTS 2:38

when they made that vision known. It says, REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED EVERYONE OF YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AND THIS PROMISE IS UNTO YOU AND TO YOUR CHILDREN AND TO THOSE THAT ARE AFAR OFF, AND AS MANY AS THE LORD OUR GOD SHALL CALL. But they received their calling through a divine victory. In

ACTS 5:12-16

we can see a very important thing happening. And the Apostle's performed great and miracolous signs and wonders. And the annointing was so strong and powerful that when they gathered in Solomon's colinade by Solomon's porch in the temple area, the people all around were afraid to come to them even though that they were greatly respected.

Now when you begin to analyze that a little further, you begin to see that they brought their sick and they layed them in the street so that perhaps Peter shadow passing by them would bring them healing. And the Bible tells us that the crowds came from all

the cities around Jerusalem. And they brought their sick and they brought those that were possessed of devils and all of them were healed.

Now the whole point is, that we have been called to do the very same thing today. And as the first century church was called as the company of the called, so in the 20th century, we are the company of the called. We have received the same divine visitation. We have received the same divine vision. We have received the same divine victory. And the whole purpose of the epistle's are to give to us the understanding of that calling. Peter and James and John and Jude and Paul all expand the calling that God has given to us. They expound the calling that God has given to us. They excite the calling that God has given to us. And when we read the Word, we are called to be the company of the called. This is the message of

I CORINTHIANS 1:27-30

when it says, REMEMBER WHO YOU WERE WHEN YOU WERE CALLED, NOT MANY OF YOU WERE WISE BY HUMAN STANDARDS. NOT MANY OF YOU WERE REAL INFLUENTIAL. NOT MANY OF YOU HAD NOBLE BIRTH. BUT GOD HAS CHOSEN THE WEAK THINGS TO PUT TO SHAME THE THINGS THAT ARE WISE. GOD HAS CHOSEN THE FOOLISH THINGS TO PUT TO SHAME THE THINGS THAT ARE WISE. AND GOD HAS CHOSEN THE WEAK THINGS TO PUT THE SHAME THE THINGS THAT ARE STRONG. AND GOD HAS CHOSEN THE LOWLY THINGS, THE DESPISED THINGS AND THE THINGS THAT ARE NOTHING TO PUT TO SHAME OR TO NULLIFY THE THINGS THAT ARE. And He has done this so that no man may boast before Christ. But it's because of Him, of God, that we

are in Christ Jesus. And it is because of Him that God's wisdom is made unto us. And that wisdom is His righteousness, His holiness and His redemption in our lives. This is the message of

EPHESIANS 1:18

Paul says, I PRAY THAT YOUR HEARTS MAY BE ENLIGHTENED THAT YOU MIGHT KNOW THE HOPE WITH WHICH YOU ARE CALLED. THE GLORIOUS RICH'S OF THE INHERIT THAT'S IN JESUS CHRIST. This is the message of

EPHESIANS 4:1

Paul says, AS A PRISONER OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, I URGE YOU TO WALK WORTHY OF THE CALLING THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED, TO BE COMPLETELY HUMBLE AND GENTLE, TO BE PATIENT AND TO BEAR WITH ONEANOTHER IN LOVE AND TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE BONDS OF PEACE THAT ARE IN JESUS CHRIST. This is the very message that's been given to us in

PHILLIPIANS 3:13

Paul says, FORGETTING THOSE THINGS THAT ARE BEHIND AND STRAINING FOR THOSE THINGS THAT ARE AHEAD. I PRESS ON TOWARD THE MARK TO RECEIVE THE PRIZE FOR WHICH GOD HAS CALLED US HEAVENWARD IN CHRIST JESUS. This is the message of

HEBREWS 3:1

when we hear the writer of Hebrews say, MY DEAR BROTHERS WHO SHARE IN THE HEAVENLY CALLING, SET YOUR EYES, OR FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS CHRIST. THE APOSTLE AND HIGH PRIEST WHOM WE CONFESS.

Now the bottom line is, that we have the greatest responsibility of any church period in the age of history. We have

been given the responsibility to get the world ready for the coming of Jesus Christ. We have the responsibility to win the world for Christ. We have the responsibility to live out a productive world and a productive life in front of the world. We have the responsibility to reflect the image of Jesus Christ. We have the responsibility to model the joy of the Spirit-filled living. We have the responsibility to demonstrate victory over Satan and over sin, over flesh, then over secularism. What we've got to learn is, that we are the company of the called. We are the people that God has raised up to make known to the world that Jesus Christ is Lord. We are called to Christ and He is our righteousness and He is our holiness and He is our redemption. And we are called to hope in the glorious riches of the inheritance of the saints and we are called to unity. We have the bond of peace and humility and gentleness and kindness and love. And we are called heavenward to win the prize of eternal life. And we are called to confession to fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, the Apostle and the chief priest of our very living. And what this really means, if you want to answer the problem of addiction and if you want to answer the problem of alcoholism and if you want to answer the problem of sin and if you want to answer the problem of immorality and if you want to answer the problem of worry and tension and fear that goes along with this fast pace age, there's only one way to do it and that's to claim the company of the calling of Jesus Christ that is in you and to rise up in the stature of Him who has died that we might live. (applause) Amen, amen and amen. That's the answer to the needs

that we have. Hallelujah. Well praise the Lord in this place. Praise the Lord in this place. Amen, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

You know, the message that the Lord is bearing on my heart is that we're not called to fear, we're called to faith. We're not called to sin, we're called to holiness. We're not called to defeat, we're called to victory. We're not called to depression, we're called to joy. We're not called to the low life, we're called to the high life. And that high life is in Jesus Christ who is the righteous one. (applause) Amen, amen and amen and amen. Hallelujah be to God. Well praise the Lord, well praise Him in this building. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

The tragedy of our day is, when God is doing so much, so many people don't have the wisdom to know. Now that calling that we have, to understand what God has put it in us, by Jesus Christ, the rest of the world is going down the tubes, but there is something happening throughout the world that is the fabric that Christ is making known to the world that He is coming soon. And He's calling us to be ready to meet Him. But so many times, we don't have the understanding of what that really means. You know, it kind of reminds me of the man who was to jump out of the airplane for the first time with a parachute. He'd been instructed and received all the lessons and was ready to go for his first jump. They told him to count to 10 and pull the rip cord and the shoot would open. If that shoot didn't open, there was a second one, an emergency rip cord, you counted to 5 and pulled that and the emergency shoot

would open. Everything went according to hoil. Got up in the air, jumped out of the plane, counted to 10, pulled the rip cord, no shoot. Counted to 5, pulled the emergency rip cord, no shoot. About that time, he saw a flash way down on the ground. Just a few seconds later, there was a man that passed him going up while he was going down. He hollered out to the man and said, "Sir, do you know anything about a parachute"? The man said, "No, do you know anything about a coleman's stove"? (laughter) Somebody just explained a coleman's stove to some of the young people that were here. But sometimes our wisdom is just about that limited.

It's kind of like the man who's alarm clock went off at 5:30 in the morning. It was rainy and it was cold and it was windy and he prayed for strength to get up and run the five miles that he ran every morning. Then he rolled over and went to sleep. He said he prayed for strength, but God gave him wisdom instead. (laughter) So how do we live out this calling that God has given us? How do we live in the company of the called and we have before us a model by the name of John the Baptist. The thing I like about John the Baptist is, that he was a man that bridged the gap for us. He was a man that had the calling of God on his life and lived out that calling for what God's purpose was in his own living. You see, so often, we talk about being called when we really feel driven. I'm not talking about the driven life. There are so many people that are driven today. Bloodpressure up, hypertension up, all the things that go into the fast moving stress filled age that we live in, driven people, driven for the competition, driven for the

status, driven for the brilliance, driven for the power, driven to get ahead, driven to make it work, driven to keep it going, driven to keep it in the road. But that's not what we're talking about. The thing that makes us different from what we're doing here today and what seminar's do all over the world, to tell people how to get adjusted is, we're not talking about how you can get better driven. We're not talking about how you can get ahead. We're trying to get you behind. And the way you get behind is to get ahead in Jesus Christ. We're talking about a called life. We're talking about a new center. We're talking about a new additude. We're talking about a new being. We're talking about, when you look at this world, it's just a temporary dwelling place. You weren't made to live here. You're just passing through here trying to get people ready for the real world and that is to live with Jesus Christ forever and foraye. (applause) Amen, amen and amen. That's what you're after. Hallelujah.

But when you really look at this man, John the Baptist, he had one purpose in mind. He was born with one purpose in mind, to be the forerunner of the Mesiah, Jesus Christ, the son of glory. In

JOHN 1:6

it tells us that he was a man that was sent from God. And in verse 8 of that chapter, it says he was to bear witness to the light and the light was Jesus Christ. In verses 26 and 27, it tells us that he was baptised with water, but the one that was coming afterward would baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. And he was not

worthy to unlatch his shoes or to take off his sandals. He was not worthy to do that. John was the last Old Testament prophet and the first New Testament evangelist. John was the man who bridged the gap between the message of the law and the ministry of grace. John was a man who brought the serenity of the desert into the stress of the city. John was a man who literally gave up his life so he could prepare the way for Jesus Christ to make known to the world that He was really Lord. He was called and he knew what that calling was.

And when you begin to understand that, we know that he was called because he had experienced an individual initiative. That's where the calling has to start. It has to start individually. We hear John and the message that I read to you a moment ago say, I'M NOT THE BRIDEGROOM. THE BRIDE BELONGS TO THE BRIDEGROOM. I'M THE BEST MAN. And the best man just stands up with the bridegroom. The best man takes care of the details. The best man makes the arrangements. The best man looks after all of the needs of the bridegroom himself. That's the only reason that I'm here. You see, John had that individual touch of God on his life from his birth to do this one thing. I'm of the opinion that it's time that we came back to that sense of individual calling. It's important to be a part of the corporate body, the church. It's important to be a part of groups that can give you support. But there comes that time in life when you've got to know that I have been called myself that Christ came by me and said, TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME. And we put down our fishing nets and we put

down our money changing tables and we said, Lord, I'm going to follow you regardless of where it takes me and I'm going to do one thing, I'm going to seek first your Kingdom and all of your righteousness, and when I do that, I know that all of these things are going to be added unto me because I am your disciple. Amen, amen and amen. (applause) That's what He wants out of you and me. Well, hallelujah. Well, praise God forever. Amen.

You know, the word *caleo* means a personal call. It means to invite. It means to have summons. The word *ace caleo* really means to invite in or to call in. The word *epi caleo* really means to call forth or to call someone by their personal name. The word *pro caleo* means to call, is calling people into the ministry or for a specialized kind of purpose. And when we begin to see that individualised calling, then it is that our life can take on new meaning. You know, for the past few weeks, I've been involved with a lot of difficult situations. I've talked to over five families where there were five suicides involved, two of them successful, three of them not successful. In the past three or four months, I probably talked to seven or eight hundred preachers and their wives in conferences and I've been spent many hours in talking to ministers about to give up the ministry. Last Sunday, I preached in a church with a friend of mine that his family has been struck by tragedy, bringing a cleavage between him and his wife and seperating that family out. And I went up there to be of help to him and to preach in his church the four services that he has in that ministry last Sunday. And I begin to wonder sometimes, God,

what is happening to all of the world. And last Saturday as I was praying in my hotel room getting ready for the services on Sunday, the Holy Spirit began to speak to me and said, Do you know what is needed today? People need to get that sense of individual calling, because you're not going to be able to trust and depend upon the ministry. You're not going to be able to trust and depend upon the organizational church. You're not going to be able to trust and depend upon human initiative, because everything in this world has feet of clay and there's some that are efficient and there are some that are honest, but there is one person in whom you can trust and you need to learn to have access to that person in the holy of holies and the Kingdom of Kingdom, that's Jesus Christ, the righteous. He's at the right hand of the Father and in Him you will never fail. (applause) Amen, amen and amen. He's the one you've got to trust. He's the one you've got to trust. Hallelujah.

You know, it suddenly dawned on me, it doesn't matter if all the ministers go down the tubes. It doesn't matter if all the church buildings burn, God's contained to buildings and ministries. God is found in the hearts of sincere disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. (applause) And in that sincerity, He lives and moves and has His being. Hallelujah. Well praise God forever. Amen. Amen, hallelujah.

That's the individual initiative that we really have to know. You know, when you really get a hold of this thing, you get a hold of that calling, you know, you're going to live out that calling.

You know, it would be hard for me not to preach. You know, it would just be very hard. If I miss a Sunday preaching, if I'm off on vacation, every once and a while I take a Sunday off, not very often, usually I go preach somewhere. I just feel at a loss. You know, I feel awkward, you know. I ought to be somewhere preaching. And Carmeletta says, well please, don't preach to me, whatever you do, don't preach to me. (laughter)

You know, when we pastored that famous church in Newberry, any of you remember that? (laughter) Well, we had that little congregation and there was a new housing development a few blocks from our church that went in and a lot of new people moved in. There was a little plant went in and some folks came and we wanted to get over there and tell them how glad we were they were in town, and invite them to come to church and so forth. So I get a personal witness training program with my people there and taught them how to make a visit and how they ought to go into a home and invite people to come. And I had two old ladies in that church who grew up in pentecost and you know, they were just full of praise. I don't care where you met them, it was glory, hallelujah, praise God, isn't it wonderful Pastor Walker. And you know, sometimes I'd meet them downtown on the street on Saturday and it was always crowded and I'd always try to avoid them if I could, because if they caught you with a crowd around, it was just hand in the air, praise God, Pastor Walker. What a joy, isn't the Lord good, hallelujah. You know, and you just kind of look around and wonder. Now don't look so pious, you've been down that road. Well,

these were two ladies that were just full of that kind of enthusiasim. So I said, now what I've got to do is take them with me on this visit or we're going to be in big trouble, because I don't want them just turning people off. Because they thought that anybody they met and they witnessed to, they ought to get them saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost and send them on to Heaven, all in that one shot. (laughter) And they really didn't understand the process of growth, you know. It was just instantanious. You pour out the bucket, that's it. So I said, "I'll take you all with me. We'll go to this housing project and we'll go in this apartment building." And I went over the whole thing while we were sitting in the car, got out, I said, "Now I'll go in this side of the apartment building, you go on that side of the apartment building. You don't stay over 20 minutes, A, B, C, D,". "Yeah pastor, we've got it". I went and did my visit, 22 minutes I'm back out in the hall. Down the hall, I hear the awfulest hollering and praying and screaming you ever heard in your whole life. (laughter) I go rushing down the hall to see what the point is. I open the door and I look in and Granny Jump has got a man and his wife down at a couch, kneeling on their knees. She's got her hands over them. They're praying and craying and squalling. And granney Pershaw is standing right in the middle of the floor just doing this, just doing this and praising the Lord and shouting to the Lord. And I run in and I say, "Granny Pershaw, what in the world is going on?" She said, "Oh, isn't it wonderful, Pastor . . . backslidden Church of God family, moved in here from

Alabama, and if you'll get out of the way, we're going to pray 'em through. (laughter) (applause) Well, that's exactly what they did. That's exactly what they did.

But you see, that's the individual initiative. (laughter) That's what that is. You know, I don't really understand it, you know, we spend all these years to try to freeze up all the assets. Now it's time to release the assets, to unthaw the assets and to let the Spirit move by the power of the living God and to win this world for Jesus Christ. (applause) That's the job that we have to do, amen. Hallelujah. Well praise Him in this place. Praise Him in this place.

But you know, when you really get down to looking at it, it's not only this experience of individual initiative, but it's really this expression of a corporate identity. Because you don't see John, the Baptist, just going it alone totally, but you really see in his life something far greater than that. You see him as he becomes a part of what Christ is doing. He becomes a part of the ministry that Christ has. He becomes a part of what Christ is trying to put together in this church. And you look at verse 30, HE MUST BECOME GREATER, John says. Christ must become greater, I must become less. And the whole implication is, I'm a part of what He's doing and if you go back to verses 22 up through 27, you find out there was an argument between the disciples of John about with this Christ that was really doing this baptizing and John was explaining to them, look, the one that's doing the baptizing out there, He's really the baptizer, I'm just preparing the way. I'm

a part of His team. I'm a part of His ministry. And you look at verse 31, we hear John saying, THE ONE WHO COMES FROM ABOVE IS ABOVE ALL, BUT THE ONE WHO IS FROM THE EARTH BELONGS TO THE EARTH AND SPEAKS AS ONE FROM THE EARTH. THE ONE WHO COMES FROM HEAVEN IS ABOVE ALL. CHRIST IS ABOVE ALL. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but noone accepts his testimony. To that point, noone had accepted his testimony.

Now it's interesting that the ones that really accepted His testimony were His disciples. Other's believed and other's heard and while they were confronted by Christ, you know there was only 32 days that we have of Christ's ministry on life. And we know that His ministry was limited in time. And what that He really did was work through His disciples. They were the company of the called. And that's exactly what He's calling us to do, to be that testimony of His.

Now notice in verse 33. THE MAN WHO HAS ACCEPTED THIS, HAS ACCEPTED THIS TESTIMONY, HAS CERTIFIED THAT GOD IS TRUTHFUL. Now that's our whole job, to certify that God is truthful. For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God. To Him, God gives the Spirit without limit. The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in His hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. But whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him. That's why when we begin to understand this individual initiative, and we put all of these initiatives together, they come together in forming in what we call the church, a living organism in the world, not an organization, not an

institution. This organization here, this institution is manmade. We put it together as an agency to equip you to be the real organization and to be the real organism of the power of God, that the church is not made up of these buildings and these bricks and these mortar. It's made up of us as individuals. What the church is is what we are. Who the church is is who we are. What the church does is what we do. We make up the church of the living God.

You know, sometimes I get really discouraged with the whole thing and I argue with God sometimes and every once and a while I go out in the desert and find me one of those juniper trees and Elijah's no longer there so I just sit in his place. (laughter) And I get under that and get good and depressed and feel miserable. Have you ever noticed that? Have you ever said that to yourself? Have you ever done that? How many of you've ever gotten under a juniper tree? I was afraid of that. And you know what I'm talking about and you know, you say, God, you know, I'm the only one you've got left. (laughter) I mean even Elijah's gone Lord and I'm the only one that you've got left. Did you ever get to feeling that? And sometimes I get to thinking, Lord, whatever happened to

MARK 9:23

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM THAT BELIEVES, ONLY BELIEVE. I say, Lord, whatever happened to

MARK 11:24

WHATSOEVER THINGS YOU DESIRE, WHEN YOU PRAY, BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE THEM AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE THEM. I say, Lord, whatever happened

to

MATTHEW 17:20

IF YOU HAD THE FAITH OF A GRAIN OF A MUSTARD SEED, YOU COULD SAY TO THIS MOUNTAIN, BE REMOVED FROM HERE TO THERE AND IT WOULD BE REMOVED. Whatever happened to

JOHN 14:12

VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME, THE WORKS THAT I DO SHALL HE DO ALSO, AND EVEN GREATER WORKS THEN THESE SHALL HE DO. And I get to saying, Lord, now where's that happening? I don't see it happening. And then the Lord, you know, I'm glad the Lord is gentle and glad that He's a God of grace. I'm glad that when you question Him, He just doesn't say, O.K. Walker, that's enough out of you, zot. (laughter) You know, I'm happy, there would be nothing left but a an ink blot. But He allows you to reason with Him because that's the way you learn.

You know, I have a thesis and you don't have to believe this and you don't have to accept that this is pure Walkerology. I don't believe you can have great faith unless you have some doubt. I think that makes you build your faith is when you come to God sometimes in doubt to where you have to depend totally on Him. If you're always on the super highway, you'll never appreciate it until you get on the backroads. And on the backroads of doubt is where you learn the super highway of faith. And you know that He that is in you is greater then He than is in the world. (applause) Amen, amen and amen. Well, hallelujah. Hallelujah. Praise God. Hallelujah.

The Lord began to deal with me and say, alright Paul, what do you think? What do you think all of this has accomplished? You think that I'm the only one, you're the only one that I've got to work for me? My goodness, if you're the only one I've got, I'm in real trouble, the Lord said, you know. I've got a big problem, but I've got millions of people. I've got 50 million behind the iron curtain. I've probably got 80 million in China. I've got people spread all over the world. Forty per cent of the army in Korea, they belong to me. I've got people everywhere across the world and somewhere right this very minute, somebody's receiving a miracle of the living God, because we've come together in the company of the called and we believe in Jesus Christ who is at the right hand of the Father and He has all power in Heaven and in earth. (applause) Amen, amen and amen. That's what we believe. Well praise the Lord. Hallelujah.

You know, we get all hung up on this idea of power and I'm not really sure we understand what power means. I'm not really understand that we really understand power. You know, if you look at the Greek word for power in the New Testament, it's the word denemous, from which we get the word dynamite. Well, we all know what that is, but that's where it came from, power. But when you really use it in it's strictest sense in the New Testament, it really talks about several levels of God. Because power comes from God. Now we get all hung up on nucleor power and hydrogen power and atomic power and computer power. You know, computer power, it's just uncanty what computer's are able to do.

I rode in the car with somebody the other day, it's one of those cars that talked to you. (laughter) You know, I just hate that. (laughter) It just bugs me. I want to hit something. The door is ajar. No the door is not ajar, the door is open, and no door is ajar, I mean that's a stupid car. (laughter) I mean, it makes sense, a door is not a jar. (laughter) You know, your lights are on. I know my lights are on, I can see. You don't have to tell me my lights are on. You know, they talk about making robots that can feel and have emotions. Now that's going to be something when a metal robot comes up, puts his arm around you and cries. (laughter) We talk about all this power. But you know, when you really use that word, it talks about the very nature of God, the inherit nature of God is power. It talks about morality of God, because God is Holy and that's power. It talks about the miracles of God because God is a God of size and wonders and that's power. It talks about the influence of God that He has in all the universe Heaven and in earth, because that's power. It talks about the invensibility of God like an army that is conqueoring an enemy and that's power. The power of an army that goes into conqueor an enemy. That power, that power belongs to God. Now that kind of power is a kind of spiritual power that we need. All the powers that we're able to program, that we're able to put together in the testube and through Einstein's theory of relativity, we're able to split the adom and come into this whole new awareness of living. All of that power is manmade power. It is subject one day to go down in dusk. But the power that I'm talking about is power for

eternal life. And you begin to see yourself as a person of destiny, a person of urgency, a person that is special in the eyes of God, because we're fearfully and wonderfully made in His image and this earth has been put under our dominion and we're going to rule and reign and we're going to put the devil under our feet and we're going to worship with God forever. (applause) Amen, amen and amen. That's going to be ours. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Now this is just the dress rehearsal. This isn't the main event. Now a lot of people are living like this is the main event. No, this is just a dress rehearsal. The main event is yet to come. And you're going to come to the main event on a back of a white horse and going to come to the main event from the marriage supper of the Lamb. And you're going to come to the main event following Jesus Christ. And you're going to come into the main event and you're going to rule and you're going to reign with Him, because that power is available to us, and in that power, we live forever. Amen, amen and amen. (applause)

Now I'm not sure we've really ever put this whole act together. That's why we get beat and banged around by such little nothings. Such little nothings. You know, have you ever tried

II CORINTHIANS 4:16-18

it says, THIS IS THE REASON WE NEVER COLLAPSE. THE HOUR PERSON INDEED SUFFERS WEAR AND TEAR BUT THE HUMAN PERSON RECEIVES FRESH STRENGTH DAILY. Now the Phillip's translation in the next statement says, IN THESE LITTLE TROUBLES, WHICH ARE REALLY SO TRANSITORY, PASSING AWAY. You know, no place does it say that it

came to stay, it says it came to pass. But nowhere does it say it came to stay. They're passing away, you see. These little trouble, which are so transitory are working out for us a far more solid reward out of all proportion to our pain. FOR WE LOOK NOT TO THE THINGS THAT ARE VISIBLE, THEY'RE TEMPORARY. See, if you're going to keep your eyes horizontal, you've got a problem. But we look at the things which are invisible, because they are eternal. And I see something you don't see.

You know, one of the Christmas carol's say, Do you see what I see, what is that, the Little Drummer Boy? Well, whatever it is, do you see what I see? Do you see what I see? Do you see the King? Do you see the triumph? Do you see Christ on the throne? Do you see what's going to happen in this world? Do you see what that calling means to you? Do you see yourself as a part of this great army of Heaven and can you rise up above this world and say, I have the victory because He is the victory? Amen, amen and amen. (applause) Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Now I've been trying to quit for the last ten minutes folks. But you know, when I was a boy, about 7 or 8 years old, we were living in Lakeworth, Florida, my father was the first field mission field representative the Church of God had. And he did a lot of traveling over seas. He'd be gone six and eight weeks at a time. And in those days, you couldn't travel as fast as you do now and it was tough going. He went into some very remote areas and his life was in danger a lot of different times and he came home sometimes with maleria, came home very sick. And he was a true

missionary in that sense, and was opening up new fields, taking in new missionaries, it was a tough time. And you know, I really wasn't understanding the church. I just knew that the church had my father away a lot, and it was kind of a tough time in my life at that particular time. And I remember one Sunday night in church, we went to a little old church in Lakeworth, had about 80 people in it, little ole frame building. And one night after service, and we're just getting ready for the benediction and an elderly lady in the service said, "I think we ought to pray for Paul Walker", that was my father. Said, "I feel like he's in danger tonight and we ought to pray for him". Now I was out of the clear blue, he'd been gone about six weeks, wasn't scheduled to be home for another couple of weeks. And so that church decided they'd go to prayer. Well, about 40 people left, about 40 stayed. They got on their knees and began to pray. Obviously my mother and I stayed. The twins were just about a year old at that time, my brothers. And so they arranged the sitter to keep the children for a while and we stayed for prayer. And I remember falling asleep and waking up and I'd hear the people trevailing. And they went on to almost 2:00 in the morning. And I remember as a boy and I can see it in my minds eye because that's the first time that the meaning of the church really came alive in my heart, the company of the called. Little old woman, insignificant, little old widow woman, living on a pension, living in a trailer, lifted up by God and said, we've got to pray for the prophet of God. And forty people on their knees praying all night until about two in the

morning. It was just like victory swept through that little church. And they began to praise and they began to rejoice and they began to shout. And they went on for about 20 or 30 minutes and they felt like they'd done their will and went home. My father came home in a couple of weeks and he came on very sick, look like he'd lost 30 or 40 pounds, hardly recognized him. We asked what was going on, what all happened and he got given the itinerary of his trip and we scrutinized the time, said, where were you at such and such a time. Said, "You know, that's interesting, I was in a little sailboat, had a crew of eight people on it, they were all natives and none of them spoke english and I couldn't speak their language. We were crossing an english channel. And we got in a terrible storm." Said, "It was the only transportation I had out of that particular remote island". And he said, "We got in a terrible storm and it got to beating the boat so bad that the main sail would go back and forth under the water. We had to tie ourselves to the side of the boat. I've never been so sick in all my life. We threw everything overboard, all the luggage, everything else we had, all the cargo they were carrying. We threw it all overboard and just tied ourselves down." Said, "What was strange", and we pinpointed the time where that congregation felt victory. He said, "It was just like all of a sudden, boom, the wind stopped, all of a sudden, the waves calmed down. All of a sudden, the sea was like glass. All of a sudden, the moon was out." And he said, "It frightened that crew to death, they'd never seen it happen like that." But he said, "I knew, somewhere,

somebody was praying for me". (applause) "Somebody, somewhere was praying for me." Hallelujah. Hallelujah. The company of the called. The company of the called. Well praise the Lord in this place. Let's just stand to our feet all over this building. Hallelujah.

I want you now just to give a resounding praise to the Father. (applause) Hallelujah. Hallelujah. (We Exalt Thee)