

GOD'S CONSTANT CALL FOR MEN

(Ezekiel 22:30)

- Introduction:
1. Throughout the ages, God has constantly called for men of faith and conviction to step forward and fulfill His purposes.
 2. Men like: Abraham, Moses, the prophets, the apostles...
 3. Today, God's cry can still be heard - He needs men to step forward and fulfill His purposes.
 4. The intent of the next few lessons is to make us aware of the need God has for men, and encourage men to desire and qualify themselves to answer God's call.

I. God's Call For Men In The Past

- A. (Ezekiel 22:30).
- B. (Jeremiah 5:1).
- C. (Isaiah 6:8).

II. God's Call For Men In The Church

- A. The Revelation Of The Church.
 1. (Ephesians 3:8-11).
 2. (Ephesians 2:16).
 3. The church is an institution that manifests the wisdom of God and in which man is reconciled to God.
 4. God is calling for men to serve, labor, and lead the church through a dangerous and treacherous world.
- B. The Organization Of The Church.
 1. (Philippians 1:1).
 - a. Bishops, Deacons, Saints.
 2. Those who rule in the church (Hebrews 13:17).
 - a. They are designated by several terms in the New Testament.
 1. Presbuteros - Gr.; Presbyter - Latin; Elder - English.
 2. Poimen - Gr.; Pastor - Latin; Shepherd - English.
 3. Episkopos - Gr.; Bishop - Latin; Overseer - English.
 - b. Elder - Reference to age and maturity (Titus 1:5).
 - c. Shepherd - Reference to his duties (Acts 20:28).
 - d. Overseer - Reference to his authority (Acts 20:28).
 3. Special Servants.
 - a. Diakonos - Gr. is translated as servant, minister or deacon.
 1. The word is often used in the ordinary sense of a servant, but at times it has reference to a special class of servant.
 2. This is seen from the specific qualifications given.
 - b. Deacons are not rulers in the church as the elders, but they are servants.
 - c. (Acts 6:1-7).

- Conclusion:
1. I have heard that it takes 50,000 hours of practice to become a concert pianist.
 - a. That averages out to 5.7 years of one's life.
 - b. Or 10 hours a day for 13.7 years.
 2. How much time and effort have we put into the most important task before us: Answering God's call for men to serve in His kingdom?
 3. If you are qualified to serve, don't refuse God's call.
 4. If you are not yet qualified to serve, work toward to goal of answering

- God's call.
5. Through bold and visionary leadership and efficient and sacrificial service, the church will continue to prosper and the wisdom of God will not be blasphemed.