



“The Call to Leadership”

1 Timothy 1

Lesson 2

In A Nutshell

Where do godly leaders come from? How does a church find good leadership? The call of God to His work is the means by which He provides leadership for the local church. This is very different from the world’s concept of leadership, and this lesson will help us appreciate that difference.

To The Testimony!

Paul And Timothy Demonstrate the Call of God to Leadership

1 Tim.
1:1-2

Acts
9:1-16

Acts
13:2

1. Many people in the world today would like the answer to the question, "How can I become a great leader?" Much money is spent on books, seminars, and college tuition with the hope of developing great leadership or management skills. As we read Paul's customary opening, in which he identifies himself as the author and Timothy as the recipient, we also read about how Paul happened to become a great leader, an apostle. How did Paul become a great leader for God (v. 1)? How is this different from how the world finds its leaders?

1 Tim.
1:12-16

Phil.
3:4-6

Gal.
1:13-14

2. In verses 12-16, Paul goes into more detail regarding what made him a great leader for God. In Phil. 3:4-6, we have a similar testimonial from Paul, only here he is describing what made him a great leader for Jewish organizations. How do the two “resumes” differ? What is different about the way the world chooses its leaders and the way God chooses His?

Acts
9:26

1 Cor.
1:26-31

3. How did Paul's background render him a particularly unlikely candidate for the work God had called Him to do? What lessons do we learn about God's approach to choosing His leaders and accomplishing His work from Paul's example as an unlikely candidate (v. 13)?

2 Cor.
12:7-10

Acts
9:19-30
11:22-26

4. We get the impression from verse 12 that Paul's call to be an apostle did not come automatically with his conversion in Acts 9. Christ Jesus our Lord needed to see an important quality in Paul before He enabled Paul and placed Paul in the ministry. What is this quality, and how was it developed in Paul before his call in Acts 13:2? What does this teach us about how God calls men to leadership?

Gal.
1:15-2:1

Matt.
25:21, 23

1 Tim.
1:17

5. As Paul finishes his testimonial concerning the call to the ministry God gave him, he breaks into a joyful statement of praise, which teaches us the ultimate purpose of Christian leadership. What is this ultimate purpose, and what are some less worthy "ultimate purposes"?

Psalm
24

1 Tim.
1:18-20
4:14

6. Some may argue that Paul was different: “No one today hears the command or charge from the Lord to enter the ministry the way Paul did.” Yet Timothy, though different in circumstance from the Apostle Paul, also received a command, a charge, a call to the ministry. Paul refers to this call in verse 18 and again in 4:14. Both passages suggest that a clear understanding of the call of God was critical to Timothy's position as a leader of God's people. This call was communicated via specific “prophecies,” a medium somewhat less astounding than that of Paul's Damascus road experience, but none less effective. What does Paul encourage Timothy to do with the revelation of his call to the ministry? What does this say about the importance of a sense of God's calling to the success of a leader's ministry?
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Counterfeits Exist Who Fail to Demonstrate the Call Of God to Leadership

1 Tim.
1:3-11
1:18-20

7. There are many religious leaders, some well respected, who were never called of God, and so should have never become religious leaders. Paul gives Timothy instruction as to how to recognize this group of religious leaders. The key difference between false religious leaders and men called of God centers on their doctrine or teaching. In verses 3 and 4, Paul gives the teaching of false religious leaders a series of names. In verses 10 and 11, Paul names the teaching of men called by God. He goes on to compare the results of the two types of doctrine or teaching, and finally the way the two interpret the law. Fill out the chart below using our passage to better understand the difference between the teaching of a false religious leader, and that of one called by God.

Characteristic related to teaching:	The Teaching of False Leaders	The Teaching of God-called Leaders
Names given their teaching:	(vv. 3, 4, 6)	(vv. 10-11)

Results of their teaching:	(vv. 4, 20)	(vv. 4, 5, 19)
Their teaching about the Mosaic Law:	(vv. 7-10)	(vv. 7-10)

Real Life?

Last Sunday, Community Baptist Church got the word they had anticipated for some time now. After 25 years of distinguished service, Pastor Smith had announced his retirement effective next month. Pastor Smith had started Community Baptist Church after pulling a group out of the American Baptist Convention over liberalism. For most of the church's 200 members, the news was unsettling though not unexpected. Many of them had never had another pastor, and the thought of considering any one else as their pastor was a new and unwelcome thought. Pastor Smith was a gifted expositor, wise counselor, and experienced leader. Some of the elderly had known him for his entire 25 years of ministry at CBC. Many were concerned that replacing him was going to be a difficult, if not impossible, task.

Over the years, the church had a number of assistant pastors. For the past twelve years, Pastor Jones has served as the assistant. Pastor Jones is well-liked and well-known by most. He had grown up in CBC's Christian day school where he was known as the class clown. God had gotten a hold of his heart as a sophomore in college and had called him to the ministry. He studied hard and averaged B's. He had managed his way through seminary, somehow cramming three years of work into five. All of his ministry experience was with CBC where he preached Wednesday evenings and directed the Christian Education program of the church. God had blessed his faithful work. One of the happiest days of Pastor Jones's life was the day the church ordained him eight years ago.

News of Pastor Smith's pending retirement spread rapidly, and the pulpit committee was flooded with resumes of good men who desired to candidate. During the first of the committee's meetings, Pastor Smith surprised the deacons by asking them to consider Pastor Jones as a candidate. Though the idea had naturally surfaced in the minds of the deacons, most had quickly dismissed it. Pastor Jones was no Pastor Smith, and they just felt that he was not the caliber of leader they were looking for. Besides, the resume of a college professor who had also pastored three different churches over the past twelve years and authored five well-known books on the family had already caught the eye of most of the men.

How can the principles of God's call to leadership help CBC's pulpit committee make their recommendation to the church?