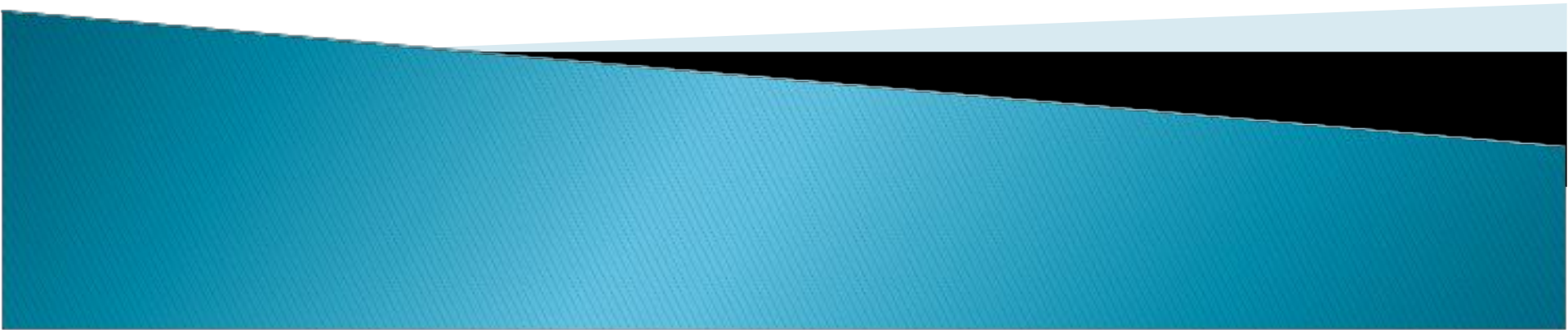


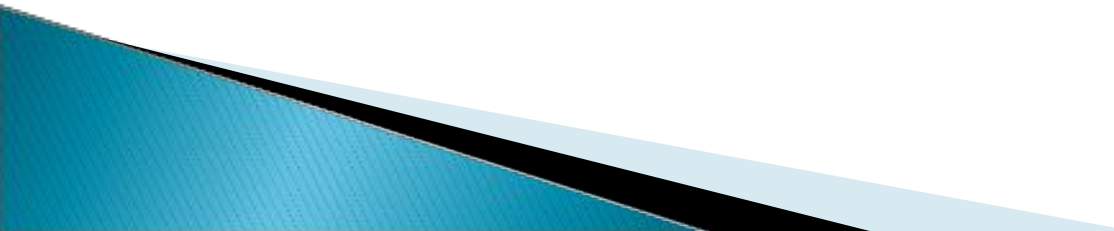
# The Call of God

Midweek Instruction  
Rev. Dr. Lee P. Washington  
Reid Temple AME Church

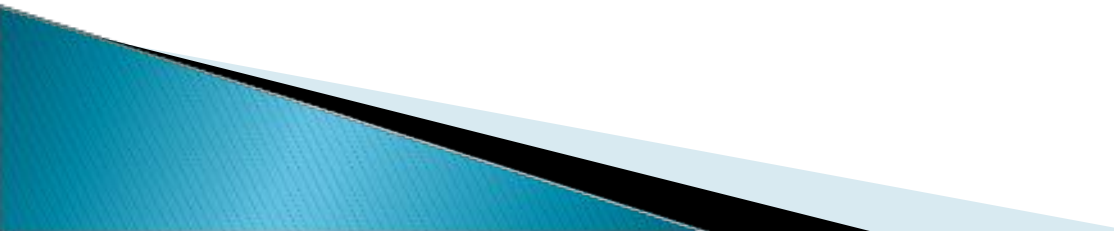
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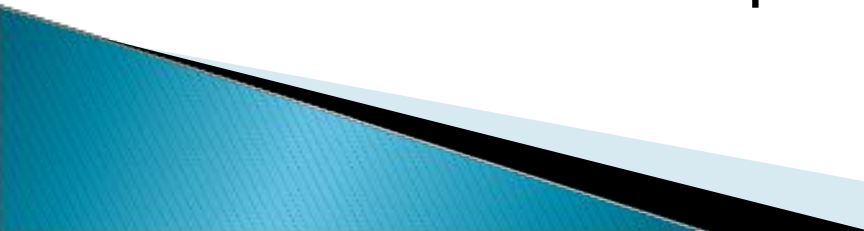
# The Inward Call of God

- ▶ When God calls us we begin to recognize the call through an inward awareness.
  - ▶ The inward call involves God's voice being heard by faith.
  - ▶ Those whom God calls now this call by a sense of leading, purpose and growing commitment.
  - ▶ Those called of God recognize this inward call as a sense of growing compulsion to be available to minister to the people of God.
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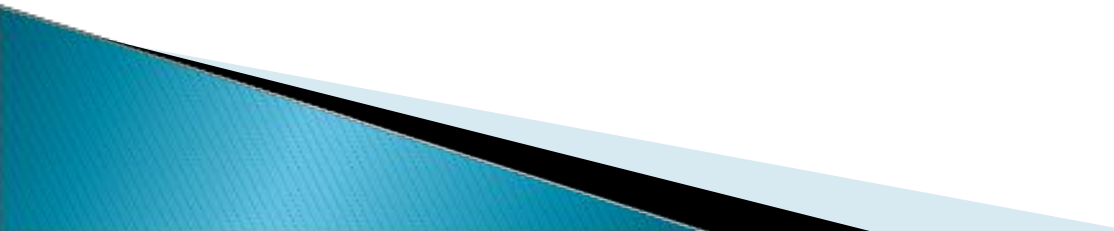
# The Outward Call of God

- ▶ The outward call of God is rooted in the body of believers.
  - ▶ There is a validation and affirming of the call of God and the gifts of the believer who is called to ministry.
  - ▶ As a family of faith assembles, believers should be able to discern and recognize the gifts of ministry given to its members.
  - ▶ The call of God must be responded to with submission.
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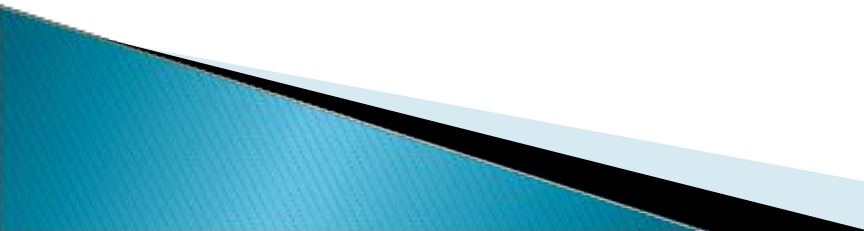
# Career versus Calling

- ▶ These days many people think of careers rather than callings.
  - ▶ The biblical perspective of the call is an extension from the call of salvation to the call of a specific ministry.
  - ▶ Only God can call a true minister and only God can grant the minister the gifts necessary for service.
  - ▶ Do you have an inner urgency to share the gospel or care for God's people?
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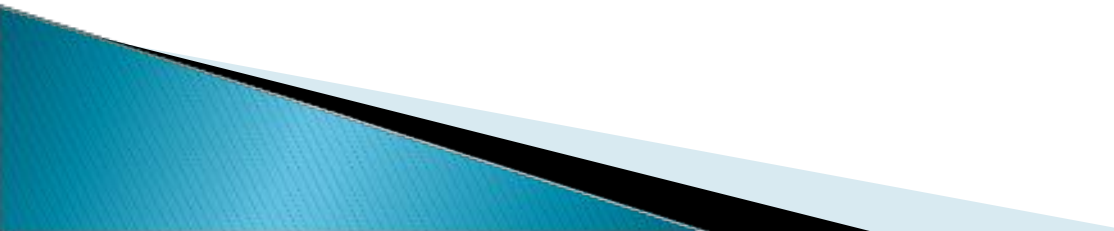
# Failure to Recognize God's Call

- ▶ Why is it that some people may not recognize the call of God? American Contemporary Culture
  - ▶ Little attention given to long term commitment.
  - ▶ Bible portrayed as narrow, antiquated, irrelevant.
  - ▶ Secularism, humanism, no absolutes
  - ▶ Time trap, Priority Dilemma
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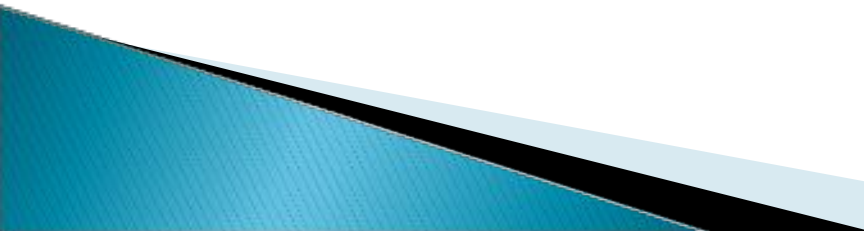
# Practical Ways to Hear God's Call

- ▶ God's word: God speaks through His Word.
  - ▶ God's word is powerful and persistent.
  - ▶ God often calls through extraordinary circumstances.
  - ▶ God often calls through dramatic experiences.
  - ▶ God can also use ordinary experiences to speak to us.
  - ▶ God can call us through a persistent burden. The burden may begin small and increase in intensity.
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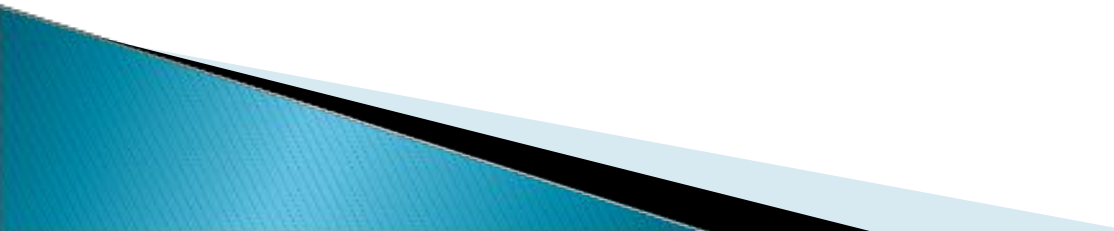
# The Church's Responsibility

- ▶ The Church has a special responsibility to provide an atmosphere where people can hear and respond to the call of God.
  - ▶ Pastors have a unique responsibility to challenge people to respond to the call of God at the altar.
  - ▶ Many persons have been called to a lifetime of service as they sought God on their knees at a church altar.
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# Medium, Means, Message of God's Call

- ▶ The Call of God must be by way of Christ. Is. 55:5; Rom. 1:6
  - ▶ The Call of God must be by way of His Spirit. Rev. 22:17,
  - ▶ The Call of God must be by way of the gospel. 2Thess 2:14.
  - ▶ All who come to Christ are also called by God to serve His Kingdom. Ps. 100:3
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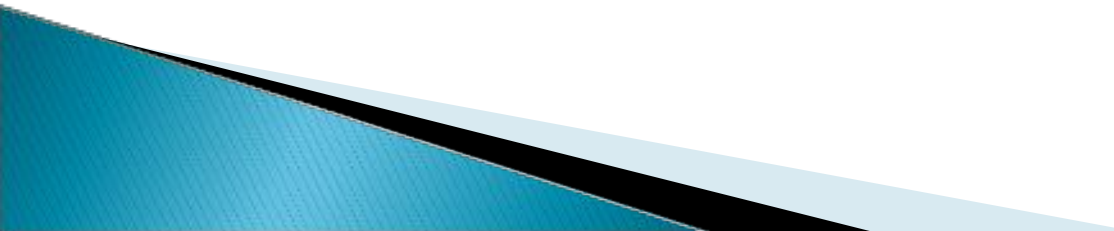
# Accepting the Call of God

- ▶ The call of God must be accepted and understood as a call of Grace. Gal. 1:15, 2 Tim. 1:9.
  - ▶ The call of God must be accompanied by regeneration and new spiritual life.
  - ▶ The call of God must be evidenced by repentance and faith. John 6:44
  - ▶ The call of God involves seeking the Lord's guidance in your life and work.
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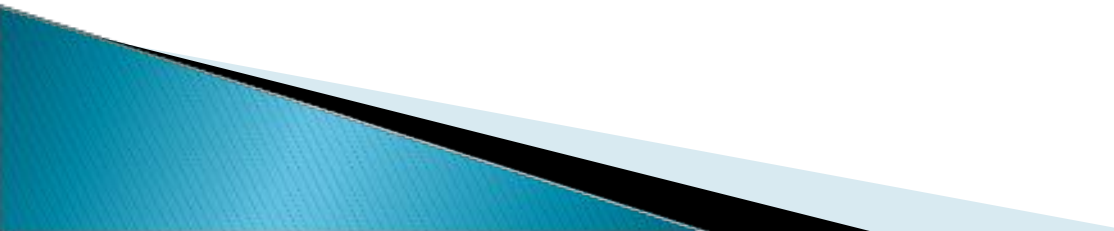
# The Goals of The Call of God

- ▶ The goal of the Call of God is holiness. 1 Thess. 4:7; 1 Tim. 1:9
- ▶ The goal of the Call of God is fellowship with Christ. 1 Cor. 1:9
- ▶ The goal of the Call of God is liberty & peace Gal. 5:13. . 1 Cor. 7:15.
- ▶ The goal of those called is to walk worthy of your vocation. Eph. 4:1 We are to devote ourselves as much as possible to be strengthened by the Word of God and the Holy Ghost.

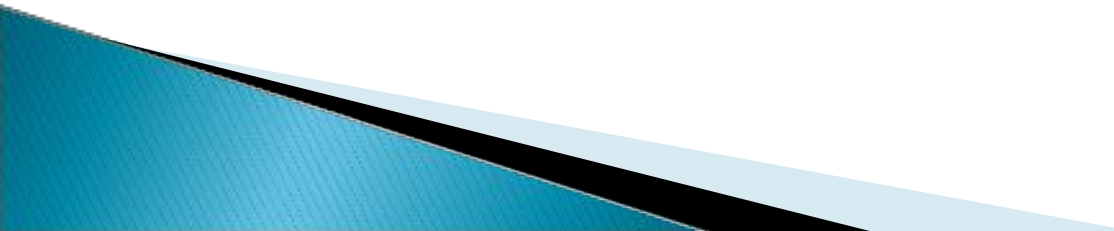
# What are Some Consequences of Not Receiving God's Call

- ▶ Spiritual blindness
  - ▶ Isa. 6:9; Acts 28:24-27
  - ▶ Spiritual delusion:
  - ▶ Isa. 66:4; 2 Thess. 2:10-11
  - ▶ Temporal judgment:
  - ▶ Zech. 7:12-14; Heb. 12:25.
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# The Unique Call To Preach

- ▶ You can't assume the role of being God's spokesperson without first receiving God's commission.
  - ▶ A preacher of God is not a Christian who decides to preach or is told they are to preach.
  - ▶ It is God who commands preaching.
  - ▶ It is God who sends out preachers.
  - ▶ God's call to preach His word is much more than personal spiritual experience.
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# Characteristics of the Call to Preach

- ▶ A continuing aspiration in your spirit without choosing to think about it keeps surfacing because you long to glorify God through sharing his gospel.
  - ▶ You long to see souls converted and the building of the Church.
  - ▶ Qualification of Character and growing visibility of Christlikeness. 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:6:9
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# Do No Enter

- ▶ Ambition to be noticed, to prove yourself.
  - ▶ Confidence you could do well in ministry.
  - ▶ Fluency in public speaking. Bible knowledge
  - ▶ Failure at all other types of work.
  - ▶ Acquiescence to the expectation of a parent or selfish opinion of others.
  - ▶ Conviction the Church needs you.
  - ▶ Ministry the best means to an easy life for study and intellectual pursuits of wealth.
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