



# Advanced Ministry Class

## *Practical Studies About the Ministry*

### **2 Timothy 2:2**

*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses,  
the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach  
others also.*

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## Topics of Discussion

- The Call to the Ministry
- The Commission from the Master
- The Commander of the Mission
  
- The Preacher and His Bible
- The Preacher and His Brethren
- The Preacher and His Books
- The Preacher and His Beliefs



# God Gave Pastors

*“And he gave some . . . pastors”*

Literally, *shepherds*.

Comp. Mt 9:36; 25:32; 26:31; Mark 6:34; 14:27; Luke 2:8,16,18,20; John 10:2, John 10:11-12,14,16, where it is rendered *shepherd(s)*; In Heb 13:20; 1Pe 2:25. In Matt. 26:31; Mark 6:27; Heb 13:20; 1Pet. 2:25, it is applied to the Lord Jesus as the Shepherd of the church.

*“The word is given to ministers of the gospel with obvious propriety, and with great beauty. They are to exercise the same watchfulness and care over the people of their charge which a shepherd does over his flock.*

*The meaning here is, that Christ exercised a special care for his church by appointing pastors who would watch over it as a shepherd does over his flock.” -Albert Barnes*

# Jesus

- **Chief Shepherd**

**1 Peter 5:4** And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

- **Great Shepherd**

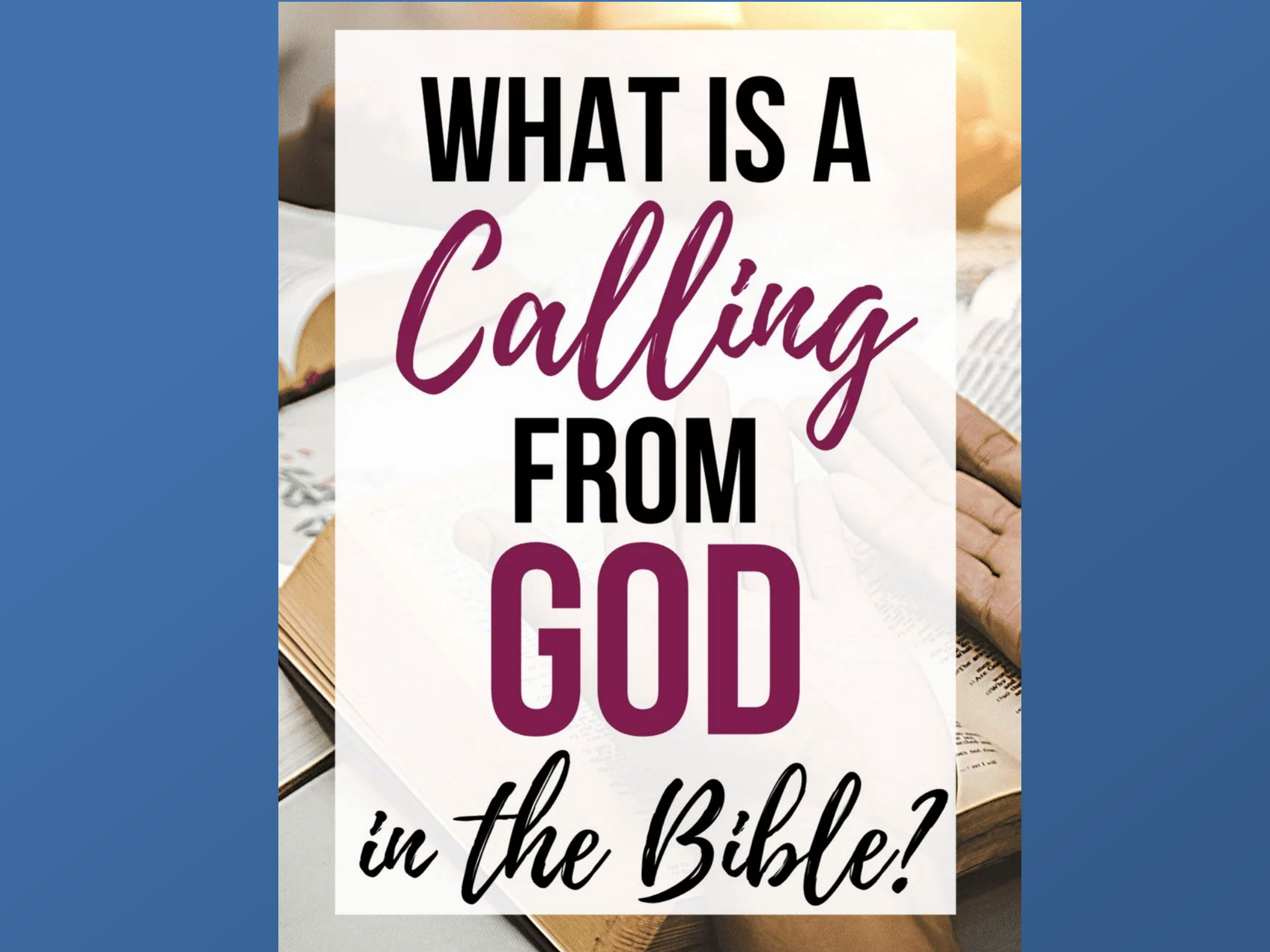
**Hebrews 13:20** Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

- **Good Shepherd**

**John 10:11** I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

**John 10:14** I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open Bible. The hands are positioned on either side of the open pages, which are slightly blurred. The background is a soft, warm light. Overlaid on the center of the image is a white rectangular box containing text. The text is arranged in several lines: 'WHAT IS A' in bold black uppercase letters, 'Calling' in a large, elegant purple cursive font, 'FROM' in bold black uppercase letters, 'GOD' in large, bold purple uppercase letters, and 'in the Bible?' in a black cursive font.

**WHAT IS A**  
*Calling*  
**FROM**  
**GOD**  
*in the Bible?*

# THE CALLING OF GOD

- **Philippians 3:14** I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.
- **2 Timothy 1:9** Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,
- **Hebrews 3:1** Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;
- **2 Pet. 1:10** Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:



# *“... the high calling of God”*

**Philippians 3:14** ... the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

*God has called us to great and noble efforts; to a career of true honour and glory; to the obtainment of a bright and imperishable crown.*

*It is a calling which is "high," or upward – that is, which tends to the skies.*

*The calling of the Christian is from heaven, and for Heaven.*

*He has been summoned by God, through the gospel of the Lord Jesus, to secure the crown. It is placed before and above him in heaven. It may he his, if he will not faint or tire, or look backward. It demands his highest efforts, and it is worth all the exertions which a mortal can make even in the longest life.*

–Albert Barnes



# “... an holy calling”

2 Timothy 1:9 Who hath ...called *us* with an holy calling...

The actual call *to* a life of holiness,  
whereas we were sinners and enemies  
(Eph 1:18; 4:1).

The call comes wholly from God and  
claims us wholly for God.

"Holy" implies the separation of believers  
from the rest of the world unto God.





# “... the heavenly calling”

The Israelites had an earthly calling; they were called out of Egypt to go into the promised land: Christians have a heavenly calling.

The "heavenly calling" denotes the calling which was of a *heavenly* nature. It pertained to heaven, not to earth; it came from heaven, not from earth; it was a calling to the reward and happiness of heaven, and not to the pleasures and honors of the world.

## Hebrews 3:1

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

“... **your  
calling**”

**2 Pet. 1:10** Wherefore the  
rather, brethren, give diligence  
to make **your calling** and election  
sure: for if ye do these things, ye  
shall never fall:

**God's Invitation  
Our Obligation**



# THE CALL TO MINISTRY

Biblical tests to help a man determine or  
verify God's calling.

# THE CALL TO MINISTRY

## THE TEST OF DESIRE

*"This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work."*

**1 Timothy 3:1**

# THE CALL TO MINISTRY

## THE TEST OF LIFE

*"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity... Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; ..."*

**1 Timothy 3:2-7**

# THE CALL TO MINISTRY

## THE TEST OF ABILITY

*"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able  
by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers"*

**Titus 1:9**

# THE CALL TO MINISTRY

## THE TEST OF RECOGNITION

*"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; ... As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away"*

**Acts 13:1-3**

# THE CALL TO MINISTRY

## THE TEST OF PROOF

*"Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil"*

**1 Timothy 3:6**

*"And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office..."*

**1 Timothy 3:10**

*"And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things..."*

**2 Corinthians 8:22**



***No One Is  
Supposed To  
Understand Your  
Calling,  
It Wasn't  
A Conference Call***



**End of Lesson 1**