

death and into His presence. Paul was ready, Stephen was well prepared, and we will also experience (unless the Lord comes first and claims His church) that reality and may trust God to face it as overcomers by His redemptive grace.

- III. Conclusion: He is the God of every sort of grace. Whatever one's need may be the place to look is to the Lord and He will give the grace that is needed for the test.

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MESSAGE # 2: THE CALL OF GOD

Biblical Passage: 1 Peter 5:10

I. Introducing the Subject:

As far as our understanding will take us the Providence of God is expressed wonderfully in His grace. But as Peter continues to tell us of this love of God he says..."who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus" and this becomes the second part in our study. The text tells us that God is the One who has "called us" and in that sense has not just made a big yell, but who is responsible for our being in the good of His grace and a big part of that is that we are already appointed to eternal glory. The means is by Christ Jesus who died for us. But because God has done it we are not living a tentative sort of existence but rather walking in the good of the knowledge of God. His providence, in effect, has moved us to glory already even though we are still here on this earth. His grace is hardly appreciated any more in any other facet than in the fact that He has called us. This is not a new or novel truth and is expressed beautifully in Romans 8:30 among other places.

- II. Discussion: The redemptive program (process is too slow a word, I think) is realized as the providential work of God under the following headings:

A. The Fact of Deliverance "He has called us"("He is the one who has called us."

The Gospel is the good news that the Father receives all those who come to Him by the Son and this gives them a freedom