Lord Jesus," and in 1 Peter 4:17 the apostle speaks of "those who do not obey the gospel of God." These two references to negative responses to the gospel imply the possibility of a positive response to the gospel, one that can be stated in terms of <u>obedience to the gospel</u>.

The 14 cases that speak of the <u>results</u> of the gospel include 4 that speak of salvation as a result and 4 that speak of obedience that flows from a believing commitment to the gospel. The remaining 6 uses include the following results: Paul has become the spiritual father of the Corinthian believers through the gospel, the gospel has brought blessings, the Gentiles have become co-heirs with Israel through the gospel, standing up for the gospel has brought suffering and chains for Paul, and life and immortality have been brought to light through the gospel.

Pulling together the fruits of this analysis of these five basic categories of usage of the word "gospel," we can say the following:

(1) that the gospel is a <u>message</u> with a definite <u>content</u> that focuses on the grace and truth and hope that are found in and through Christ's person and work

(2) that this message is to be <u>communicated</u>, proclaimed, advanced, spread, confirmed, and defended, primarily through <u>preaching</u>

(3) that the message calls for the <u>human response</u> of <u>obedient faith</u>

(4) that all kinds of <u>results</u> flow from a believing commitment to this message, including <u>salvation</u>, a life of obedience, blessings, and life and immortality, as well as the possibility of persecution and suffering.

The second question we ask in this lesson is:

II. HOW DOES THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION BECOME EFFECTIVE IN A PERSON'S LIFE?

This brings into play the biblical words "<u>call</u>," "called," and "<u>calling</u>." The gospel becomes effective in a person's life through <u>calling</u>. But what do these terms mean?

When we look at the uses of the word "call," we discover a variety of meanings.

Sometimes "call" means to <u>name</u>, as in Romans 2:17 - "you <u>call</u> yourself a