

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Lesson 5: WHAT WE BELIEVE ... ABOUT THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

Doctrinal Statement: *What we believe about the freeness of salvation*

The blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; and nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his or her own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel. (Isa. 45:22; Isa. 55:1; John 6:47; Acts 17:30; Rev. 22:17)

I. The components of the gospel call

The FACTS of the gospel call

- What are the basic facts of the gospel call?

The DEMANDS of the gospel call

- It is a call to _____

- *Matthew 11:28-30, Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*
- It is a call to _____
 - *John 1:11, He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him.*
- It is a call to _____ and _____
 - *Acts 20:20-21, how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The BLESSINGS of the gospel call

- *What might be the primary thing that is promised to all who repent and believe in Christ?*

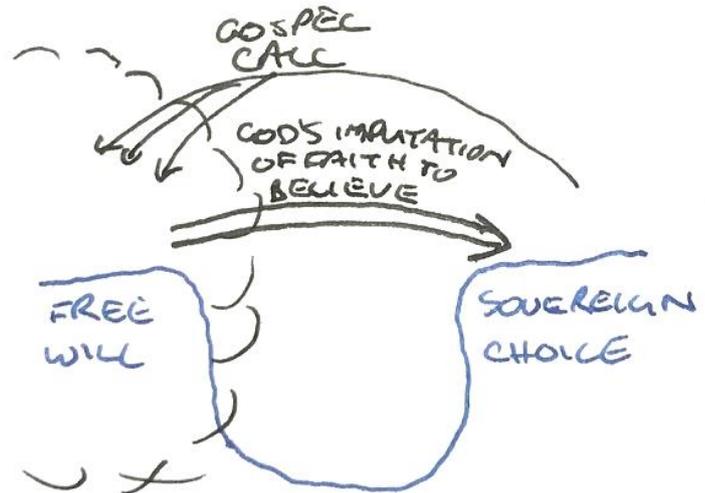
II. The importance of the gospel call

- How important is the gospel call and why?

III. The distinction between the external (general) and internal (effectual) call

- *The external call is a gospel call given universally without distinction or qualification*
- *The internal call is the work of God and is powerful to overcome the effects of depravity and to bring the person to repentance and saving faith.*

- 1 Cor 1:9, **God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**
- John 6:44, **No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.**
- John 6:64-65, **But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”**



IV. The freeness of the gospel call

- *Doctrinal Statement:* “The blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel;”
- Is 45:22, *Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.*
- Is 55:1, *Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*
- John 6:47, *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.*
- Acts 17:30, *The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent*
- Rev 22:17, *The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.*

V. The legitimacy of the gospel call

- *Ezek 18:23, Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?*
- **Louis Berkof**, “The external calling is a calling in good faith, a calling that is seriously meant. It is not an invitation coupled with the hope that it will not be accepted. When God calls the sinner to accept Christ by faith, He Earnestly desires this; and when He promises those who repent and believe eternal life, His promise is dependable. This follows from the very nature, from the veracity, of God. It is blasphemous to think that God would be guilty of equivocation and deception, that He would say one thing and mean another, that He would earnestly plead with the sinner to repent and believe unto salvation, and at the same time not desire it in any sense of the word.”

VI. The limitations of the gospel call

- *Doctrinal Statement:* and nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his or her own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel.
- Inherent depravity
 - *Eph 2:1, And you were dead in your trespasses and sins*
 - *Eph 2:4, But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved*
- Voluntary rejection
 - The result of our inherent depravity is hostility toward God and rejection of Him (Rom 1:18-32)
 - *Matt 22:14, For many are called, but few are chosen*