

14. Calling

Canons 3&4:6-10; 5:14

Calling

How does God call His regenerated people?

By gospel preaching which works in us faith [Rom. 10:17; II Th. 2:14].

What is the gospel?

The good news about Christ, our complete Savior [Rom. 1:16; Canons 3&4:6].

Included is Christ's call to believe and obey Him [II Th. 1:8].

What is the preaching of this gospel?

The church proclaiming the gospel with Christ's authority [Mt. 7:29].

Prove that Christ is the one speaking in the preaching.

[John 10:27] Christ's sheep hear His voice.

[Rom. 10:14] We hear Jesus in the preaching.

[Eph. 2:17] Saints in Ephesus heard Christ, but He never came there physically.

Two senses of the word "call"

Merely external call [Mt. 22:14]

Efficacious call [Rom. 8:30]

Twofold effect of gospel preaching

[Believer] Works in him more faith

[Unbeliever] Becomes hardened in his sin

Prove that the negative effect is also according to God's purpose.

God determined that some would stumble at the word [I Pet. 2:8].

Christ came that some might be made blind [John 9:39].

The Well-Meant Offer

What is taught by those holding to the well-meant offer:

God desires to save and offers to save all who hear the preaching.

He also gives them sufficient grace to accept this offer [accepting it = a condition].

Prove that God desires to save only the elect.

[Isaiah 46:10, Eph. 1:11] God always does His pleasure.

What is the Golden Chain of Salvation?

God calls, justifies, and glorifies all the elect and only the elect [Romans 8:30].

How does the Golden Chain contradict the well-meant offer?

Only the elect are called.

All those called will be glorified [Canons 1:e2].

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Some Verses

Matthew 22:14 **[For many are called, but...]**

God in the preaching of the gospel is calling all men everywhere to repent.
Yet few are also given the grace to do this.

Luke 5:32 **[I came not to call the righteous, but...]**

The righteous = Those who view themselves to be righteous
The sinners = The regenerated who now see themselves as sinners
Christ came to call not the self-righteous, but those who mourn for their sin.

II Cor. 2:16 **[To the one we are the savour of death...]**

Christ & the Law

The law [10 commandments] is contrasted with what?

With Christ [Gal. 3:24; 5:4; Acts 13:39]

With grace [John 1:17; Rom. 6:14-15]

What is the law/Christ distinction?

It is Christ, not the law, that declares us righteous [Acts 13:39; Gal. 2:17; 5:4].

What is the law/grace distinction?

The law alone doesn't impart grace [John 1:17; Canons 3&4:5].

But Christ's words [including His commands] do come with grace.

Prove that preaching Christ's commands is part of gospel preaching?

We are called by the gospel [II Th. 2:14; Canons 2:6].

The gospel must be believed and obeyed [II Th. 1:8].

Prove that Christ's words [including His commands] come with grace.

Christ's command "rise and walk" came with the strength to do it [John 5:8].

The call of our Good Shepherd causes us willingly to follow Him [John 10:3].

His call causes us to come out of darkness into His light [I Pet. 2:9].

Christ tells His beloved to "be strong" and this strengthens us [Dan. 10:19].

Believers are not under the law, yet must obey God/Christ.

We're [lit.] within the law to Christ [I Cor. 9:21].

Called to submit to His commands [Gal. 6:2; John 15:12].