

# Exploring the Joy of Systematic Theology

## The Doctrine of The Application of Redemption

### *The Gospel Call*

*"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?" – Ex 15:11*

## I. What We Covered Last Time

- a. **The Order of Salvation (Ordo Salutis)** – Election, Gospel Call, Regeneration, Conversion, Justification, Adoption, Sanctification, Perseverance, Death, Glorification
- b. **Election:** "An act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure."
- c. **Reprobation** – "...is the sovereign decision of God before creation to pass over some persons, in sorrow deciding not to save them, and to punish them for their sins, and thereby to manifest His justice."
- d. **Predestination is a term that includes both election and reprobation.**
- e. **Election is a comfort to believers, a reason to praise God and an encouragement to evangelism.**
- f. **Election** is God's choice of a people for Himself decided in love and with delight. **Reprobation** is a sorrow to God, with blame on man and angels who rebel, never on God Himself.
- g. **Steve's note:** These are not to be cold, clinical terms. Instead, this humbles the heart and pride of man. None of us deserves mercy apart from Christ. Ultimately, we must either reject or bow before God in his Lordship over all His has made. He is sovereign, just, loving and omnipotent in all He does. He is the creator, we are the creatures. **Rom 9:21** – "Has the potter no right over the clay...." **Is 55:8** – "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD."

## II. What is God's Call to Salvation?

- **As the second part of salvation, the "call" of God is what happens first in space and time.**
  - "Those whom He predestined He also called; and those whom He called he also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified." Rom 8:30.
- **What do we mean by God's call to salvation?**
  - "...an act of God the Father, speaking through the human proclamation of the gospel, in which He summons people to Himself in such a way that they respond in saving faith."
- **An act of God** – The Father calls us as He also predestined us "to be conformed to the image of His Son." (Rom 8:29)
- **Through the gospel** – "...to this He called you through our gospel...." (2 Thess 2:14)
- **The powerful summons of the King of the universe:** "...called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (1 Cor 1:9). "Come to me... and I will give you rest." (Matt 11:28)
- **Response of Faith – (of Lydia)** "...the Lord opened her heart to give heed to what was said by Paul." (Acts 16:14)

### III. The General Call and Effective Call

**The gospel needs to be proclaimed for the call:** “How are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard.” (Rom 10:14)

**General call:** The gospel call is offered to all people, though not all accept it. Sometimes this is called the “**external**” call.

**Effective call:** Sometimes called the “**internal**” call. The gospel call that is always effective. The elect who hear this call will respond in faith at God’s appointed time.

### IV. Elements of the Gospel Call

- **Gospel Explanation:** The preaching of the gospel must include:
  - **Our condition:** Rom 3:23 – “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
  - **Penalty for sin:** Rom 6:23 – “The wages of sin is death.”
  - **Christ’s sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sin:** Rom 5:8 – “... while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
- **Gospel Invitation:** to respond in repentance and faith.
  - “Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me.” (Rev 3:20)
  - “But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God.” (John 1:11-12)
- **A Promise of Forgiveness and External Life**
  - “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)
  - “...him who comes to Me I will not cast out.” (John 6:37)

### V. Why is the Call to Salvation So Important?

- Without the call there would be no salvation
- He speaks to our whole person in the call:
  - **Our intellect** – the facts of the gospel in God’s Word
  - **Our emotions** – a sincere, heartfelt invitation to all
  - **Our wills** – hear the invitation and respond willingly in repentance and faith

Next time: Regeneration – God imparts spiritual life to us.

May all these things lead to a deeper love for the Lord, His gospel and what He has done to save us as His people. All to the praise of His name.