

Providence Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School, Rev. Ronnie Rowe
January 25, 2009

Foundations of the Faith: Knowing for Living
A Call that is Effectual

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. – I Corinthians 1:9

My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one. – John 10:27-30

Review and Introduction

In the previous lesson we considered briefly God's design and plan in saving sinners by His grace and power. We also saw from Romans 8:28-30 that a progression or sequence is indicated, i.e., *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

In this lesson and the following we will consider this effectual call and the most necessary place of regeneration or the new birth in God's work of saving sinners.

The one issuing the call

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in the suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began... - II Timothy 1:8-9

*See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is because it did not know him.
- I John 3:1*

But he who enters by the door is the Shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. – John 10:2-4

The necessity of this call

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. . . And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." – John 6:65

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at

work in the sons of disobedience – among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. – Ephesians 2:1-3

The purpose or goal of this call

...including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. – Romans 1:6-7

*...But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
– Philippians 3:13-14*

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. – II Thessalonians 2:13-14

The way in which this call is made

But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles – to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. – Acts 26:16-18

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. – Romans 10:17

A summary statement and further passages for study

Effectual calling is the work of God's almighty power and grace, whereby (out of his free and special love to his elect, and from nothing in them moving him thereunto) he does, in his accepted time, invite and draw them to Jesus Christ, by his word and Spirit, savingly enlightening their minds, renewing and powerfully determining their wills, so as they (although in themselves dead in sin) are hereby made willing and able freely to answer his call, and to accept and embrace the grace offered and conveyed therein. – Westminster Larger Catechism, Answer 67

John 5:25; Ephesians 1:18-19; 4:1-4; Titus 3:4-5; Romans 9:11; I Corinthians 2:10-12; Hebrews 3:1; I Peter 2:9; Ezekiel 11:19; Ezekiel 36:26-27

Some final implications/application

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.