

Week 7 English

(BA) TH 430 Intro to church history

Chapter 33 The Gospel Call and Effective Calling – What is the gospel message? How does it become effective?

1. Key points
 - a. God effectively calls the elect through the proclamation of the gospel.
2. Summary
 - a. In Paul's abbreviated review of the *ordo salutis*, he states that God called the elect (Romans 8:30). In this, Paul refers to God's effective calling: it is an act of God the Father. The New Testament tells us elsewhere that God calls his people out of darkness and into a relationship with his Son (1 Peter 2:9; 1 Corinthians 1:9), he calls his people to be saints and to live in holiness (Romans 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:7), and he calls his people to endurance and eternal life (1 Peter 2:20–21; 1 Timothy 6:12). God's effective calling is distinct from gospel proclamation, but it takes place through the proclamation of the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14; Romans 10:14). In this, God "summons people to himself in such a way that they respond in saving faith." Effective calling is entirely a work of God, and without it, no one can turn to God (John 6:44; Acts 16:14).
 - b. Three elements make up the gospel call: (1) As we proclaim the gospel, we must include some core facts: all people have sinned (Romans 3:23), the penalty for our sin is death (Romans 6:23), and Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for our sins (Romans 5:8). (2) We must invite listeners to turn to Jesus in repentance and faith. God does this throughout Scripture, calling non-Christians to himself at every moment (Matthew 11:28–30; Revelation 3:20). (3) The proclamation of the gospel must include a promise of forgiveness, of eternal life, and of assurance in Christ Jesus (John 3:15; 6:37; Acts 3:19).
 - c. The gospel call is critical. Without it, no person would be saved (Romans 10:14); God uses the gospel call to address us in our hearts, our minds, and our wills. He addresses our hearts by calling us to feel the weight of our sin and his glory. He addresses our minds with the facts of sin, judgment, and salvation in Jesus Christ crucified and risen again. He addresses our wills by calling us to turn to him. This all takes place through the gospel call.
3. The order of salvation (*Ordo Salutis*)
 - a. Election (God's choice of people to be saved)
 - b. **The gospel call (proclaiming the gospel message)**
 - c. Regeneration (being born again)
 - d. Conversion (faith and repentance)
 - e. Justification (right legal standing)
 - f. Adoption (membership in God's family)
 - g. Sanctification (right conduct of life)
 - h. Perseverance (remaining a Christian)
 - i. Death (going to be with the Lord)
 - j. Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)

4. Explanation and scriptural basis

- a. Romans 8:30

5. Effective calling

- a. Effective calling is 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.
 - i. 2 Thessalonians 2:14
 - ii. John 6:44
 - iii. Acts 15:14b
 - iv. 1 Peter 2:9
 - v. 1 Peter 5:10
 - vi. 1 Corinthians 1:9

6. The gospel call and effective calling

- a. Romans 10:14
- b.

The gospel call	Effective calling
Man's action	God's action
Offered to all people	Particular
External	Internal
Often rejected	Always effective
The means for effective calling	

7. The elements of the gospel call

- a. Explanation of the facts concerning salvation
 - i. All people have sinned (Romans 3:23).
 - ii. The penalty for our sins is death (Romans 6:23).
 - iii. Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for our sins (Romans 5:8).
- b. Invitation to respond to Christ personally in repentance and faith (Matthew 11:28-30; John 1:11-12).
- c. A promise of forgiveness and eternal life (John 3:16; 6:37; Acts 3:19; Romans 8:1).

8. The importance of the gospel call

- a. If there were no gospel call, we could not be saved (Romans 10:14).
- b. Through the gospel call, God addresses us in the fullness of our humanity – he addresses our intellects, our emotions, and our wills.

Chapter 34 Regeneration – What does it mean to be born again?

1. Key points

- a. Regeneration is entirely an act of God, in which he makes our spirits alive and able to respond to him in saving faith.
- b. Regeneration will bring about actual results in our lives, including love for others and growth in sanctification.

2. Summary

- a. “Regeneration is a secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us.” In this definition, we affirm that regeneration is totally a work of God. In fact, we play no active role in our regeneration. John 1:13 states that those who become children of God are “born, not of blood nor of the will or the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” God the Father does this work in the hearts of the elect through the Holy Spirit (John 3:8; Ephesians 2:4–5). Regeneration occurs when God effectively calls us with the gospel (also called “irresistible grace”), before we respond in saving faith.
- b. We cannot describe the nature of regeneration; it is a mystery. We were dead in our sins (Ephesians 2:1), and we are made alive again in God (Ephesians 2:5). Regeneration affects our whole person. God makes our whole person alive in regeneration, and we become a “new creation.” We cannot be sure when this takes place; for children who have grown up in a Christian home, or for those in regular attendance at a church, it may not take place in an outwardly recognizable moment. In these cases, the outward change will not seem to take place so rapidly, but it will become evident over time in how they live and the desires they have. For many who are saved as adults, there is a clear moment in their lives when they realized that they were dead in their sins, and they trusted in Christ for salvation. Often, the results in this case will be visible and recognizable: they will begin to trust Christ, they will feel assurance of forgiveness, they will experience delight in worship. In both cases, believers are not sure exactly how regeneration took place.
- c. Regeneration logically precedes saving faith. Jesus says in John 3:5, “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” Our conversion marks our entrance into God’s kingdom, so he must mean that we receive new birth prior to our conversion. Additionally, Acts 16:14 says that God opened Lydia’s heart so that she could receive Paul’s proclamation of the gospel and respond in faith. This again places regeneration before saving faith. Many churches and teachers speak of regeneration as the outward evidence of faith, but it is better to refer to that as sanctification.
- d. Regeneration—if it is genuine—will bring about real results in a person’s life. For instance, the regenerated person will have Christlike love for others (1 John 4:7) and will overcome the world (1 John 5:3–4). Regeneration will result in protection from Satan (1 John 5:18), and the regenerated person will bear the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23). The fruit of the Spirit will become more and more evident in the believer’s life, and those who are not believers will clearly lack these character traits.

3. The order of salvation (*Ordo Salutis*)
 - a. Election (God's choice of people to be saved)
 - b. The gospel call (proclaiming the gospel message)
 - c. **Regeneration (being born again)**
 - d. Conversion (faith and repentance)
 - e. Justification (right legal standing)
 - f. Adoption (membership in God's family)
 - g. Sanctification (right conduct of life)
 - h. Perseverance (remaining a Christian)
 - i. Death (going to be with the Lord)
 - j. Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)
4. Explanation and scriptural basis
 - a. Regeneration is a secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us.
5. Regeneration is totally a work of God
 - a. We play no active role at all in being born again (John 1:13; Ezekiel 36:26-27; 1 Peter 1:3).
 - i. This is sometimes referred to as irresistible grace, though this title is subject to misunderstanding – it implies that people do not make a willing choice to respond to the gospel.
6. The exact nature of regeneration is mysterious to us
 - a. We know a person passes from spiritual death to spiritual life (Ephesians 2:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - b. We don't understand how this happens (John 3:8).
 - c. We can conclude that it is an instantaneous event.
 - i. For a person who has grown up in a Christian home or evangelical church for many years, the changes may only become evident over time.
7. In this sense of "regeneration," it comes before saving faith
 - a. Coming from spiritual death to spiritual life is what gives us the spiritual ability to respond to God in faith (John 3:5; John 6:44, 65).
 - b. Many confuse the results of regeneration with the act itself, but Scripture tells us we cannot see regeneration (John 3:8).
 - c. Faith in Christ for salvation is the first result we will see in someone who is born again – we cannot know a person has been regenerated until they come to faith in Christ.
8. Genuine regeneration must bring results in life
 - a. Scripture describes many results of regeneration:
 - i. Faith in Jesus Christ (1 John 5:1).
 - ii. A break from the power of sin and from a sinful pattern of life (1 John 2:29; 3:9).
 - iii. A genuine, Christlike love (1 John 4:7).
 - iv. Overcoming the world (1 John 5:3-4).

Summary Quiz #7 (Chapter 33 The gospel call and effective calling)

Last Name:

First Name:

Effective calling Faith	External calling Repentance
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1. _____ is the term used by the lecture to identify an act of God in which he summons people to himself through human proclamation of the gospel in such a way that they respond in saving faith.
2. _____ is used by the lecture to identify the gospel invitation offered to all people through human proclamation of the gospel.
3. In proclaiming the gospel, we are to invite people to respond to Christ with _____ and _____.
4. In Romans 8:30, Paul indicates that the call to salvation is an act of the Holy Spirit (True / False).
5. We should understand that Jesus is speaking directly to every non-Christian with the words of Matthew 11:28 (True / False).
6. The effective call is always effective (True / False).
7. Which of the following does the lecture identify as an element of the gospel call?
 - a. An explanation of the facts of salvation
 - b. An invitation to respond to Christ personally
 - c. A promise of forgiveness and eternal life
 - d. All of the above
8. The text lists which of the following passages in support of the importance of the gospel call?
 - a. Acts 3:19
 - b. Romans 10:14
 - c. Revelation 3:20
 - d. None of the above

(Chapter 34 Regeneration)

Regeneration	Born of water
Born of the Spirit	Irresistible grace

1. _____ is the secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us (sometimes called “being born again”).
2. _____ is a term for being born again that indicates the special role played by the Holy Spirit in imparting new spiritual life to us.
3. _____ refers to the spiritual cleansing from sin that accompanies God’s work of imparting new spiritual life to us.
4. _____ refers to the fact that God effectively calls people and also gives them new spiritual life, both of which guarantee our response of saving faith.
5. The nature of regeneration is mysterious to us (True / False).
6. Regeneration is the result of saving faith (True / False).
7. One result of regeneration is protection from Satan (True / False).
8. Regeneration is a continuous event that results in evident change in our patterns of behavior and desires over time (True / False).
9. The lecture states that regeneration comes _____ saving faith.
 - a. Before
 - b. At the same time as
 - c. After
 - d. None of the above