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Section: Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology)

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Date Taught: October 21, 2020

**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q82. How does God ordain His good news of salvation to be spread?**

God commands His saved saints to faithfully proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people everywhere, unto the ends of the earth.

* **The Example of Jesus and the Disciples**

**Matthew 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**Acts 16:30-31** Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved ...”

**Acts 17:30** “... [God] commands all people everywhere to repent.”

* **The General Gospel Call**

**General Gospel Call**: The gospel of Jesus Christ being proclaimed to all tribes, tongues, and nations. God has ordained that gospel proclamation is the vehicle by which He sets the table for salvation.

**Matthew 28:18-20**

**Acts 1:8** “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**Romans 10:14** How are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?

**Romans 10:17** (NLT) So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

**2 Corinthians 4:1-2** Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

**Q68. What is the gospel?** The gospel is the good news of the grace and power of God to redeem undeserving sinners to eternal life through Jesus’ perfect, sinless life; substitutional, sacrificial death; and victorious resurrection from the grave. These sinners are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus alone from the eternal wrath they deserved, and they are reconciled into an eternally secure relationship with God.

**Evangelism:**The proclamation and testimony of the gospel.

**2 Corinthians 4:5-6** For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**John 1:40-42** One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus …

**Luke 10:2-3** And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.”

**Matthew 5:13-16**

John Piper: “Missions exist because worship doesn’t.”

**2 Corinthians 4:7** But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

**1 Corinthians 3:5-7** What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

God commands His saved saints to faithfully proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people everywhere, unto the ends of the earth.

**Q83. Can people respond to the gospel by their own power, will, or choice?**

No. Since the fall, we are all born spiritually dead in sin and unable to truly will or choose to have saving faith in Jesus. We need the Holy Spirit to first give us new life and the gift of saving faith.

* **Condition of the Hearers of the General Gospel Call**

**Total Depravity**: As a result of Adam’s sin, every person born of both man and woman has inherited a sin nature and is utterly dependent on saving grace exerted by God for a new nature and salvation. Because of the fall, every part of natural man has been corrupted by sin: his mind, will, emotions, and flesh. Sin affects the whole person; all people sin because they are sinners by nature. All men are conceived in sin, dead in sin, slaves to sin, and deserving of God’s wrath. Total depravity does not mean that man is without a conscience or any sense of right or wrong, nor does it mean that man is as wicked or sinful as he could be. Total depravity recognizes the Bible teaches that even the apparent “good” things unregenerate man does are ruined by sin, because they are not done out of faith in Jesus for the glory of God.

**Titus 1:15** (RSV) … to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure; their very minds and consciences are corrupted

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt; who can understand it?

**Romans 14:23** … whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

**Romans 3:9-12** … For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

**Romans 3:18 “**There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

**Human Inability**:In and of oneself, a person can do nothing that honors God and has no will that longs to trust in Jesus. After Adam, all of mankind are born spiritually dead sinners; each person continues in sin, is unable to do anything that genuinely seeks for or glorifies God, and deserves only God's righteous wrath.

**Romans 8:7-8** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

**1 Corinthians 2:14** The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

**Ephesians 2:1** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

**The Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals**: “Unwarranted confidence in human ability is a product of fallen human nature. This false confidence now fills the evangelical world; from the self-esteem gospel, to the health and wealth gospel, from those who have transformed the gospel into a product to be sold and sinners into consumers who want to buy.”

* **The Effectual Call**

**Psalm 3:8** Salvation belongs to the Lord …

**Psalm 62:1** For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

**Isaiah 43:11** “I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior. I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and I am God.”

**1689 Confession of Faith**: “In God’s appointed and acceptable time, he is pleased to call effectually, by his Word and Spirit, those he has predestined to life. He calls them out of their natural state of sin and death to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ. He enlightens their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God. He takes away their heart of stone and gives them a heart of flesh. He renews their wills and by his almighty power turns them to good and effectually draws them to Jesus Christ. Yet he does all this in such a way that they come completely freely, since they are made willing by his grace. This effectual call flows from God’s free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in those called. Neither does the call arise from any power or action on their part; they are totally passive in it. They are dead in sins and trespasses until they are made alive and renewed by the Holy Spirit. By this they are enabled to answer this call and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it. This response is enabled by a power that is no less than that which raised Christ from the dead.