

1998 Summer Lecture Series (Carson City)
An Introduction to the Reformed Faith
Grace Applied: Irresistible Grace (#10)
August 17, 1998

2 Cor. 4:3-6 >> application

**What is this? It is a work of the Spirit, it is a sovereign work, a gracious work, it is often called "Irresistible grace."

**vital doctrine for at least two major reasons: (1) the experiential nature of the doctrine; (2) it is the clearest dividing line between monergism and synergism.

I. Introduction

A. Terminology

1. Irresistible grace (like limited atonement, not descriptive enough)
2. Invincible grace (the triumph of grace over human sin and rebellion)
3. Efficacious grace (the grace that is effectual in bringing a sinner to Christ)
4. Effectual calling (this brings it into the narrow scope of calling, which is the issue)

B. Definitions of Effectual Calling

Ware, 347

LC, 67; SC, 30-31; WCF, X, 1-2

B. Effectual calling presupposes total depravity

Eph. 2:1, Boettner, 163-164

C. Effectual calling presupposes election

Rom. 8:29; LC, 67, 68 (cf. WCF, X, 1-2; SC, 31, 32)

D. Effectual calling and regeneration

Some treat them synonymously, there is overlap and interrelatedness

*note on the WCF and 1689

regeneration is what makes the call effectual (Steele and Thomas, 48-49)

II. The External Call of the Gospel

A. Universal and indiscriminate (Mt. 11:28; Jn. 7:37; Isa. 45:22; Rev. 22:17)

B. Resistible (Isa. 65:11-12; Acts 7:51)

A number of perspectives on why this call is resistible

*human responsibility; depravity; election

III. The Effectual Call of the Gospel

- A.. 1 Cor. 1:17-31 note the contrast in v. 18, and the language of external call (18, 23)
- B. Rom. 8:28-30
- C. Jn. 6:37, 44, 64-65
- D. 1 Cor. 1:9
2 Tim. 1:9
1 Pet. 2:9
2 Pet. 1:10 (only makes sense if effectual)
- E. Acts 13:48; 16:14; Rom. 1:6-7; Ezek. 37; Jn. 11

IV. The Free Offer of the Gospel

- A. We acknowledge an element of mystery between sovereign grace and moral responsibility.
- B. We acknowledge the end and the means
- C. We acknowledge our task.
"The gospel is proclaimed to human beings not as elect or reprobate, but as sinners who all need redemption." Herman Bavinck
- D. We leave the results with God and give Him all the glory
Great freedom in preaching