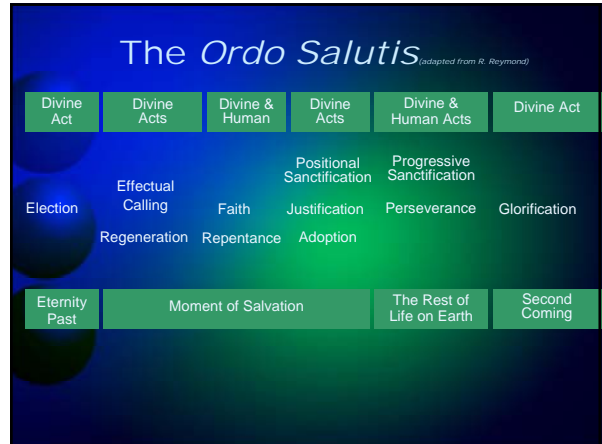


The Effectual Call



- ## Common One-Word Description
- *Called*
 - Rom. 1:6-7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:6; Eph. 4:1, 4; Phil. 3:13-14; Col. 3:15; 2 Th. 1:11

- ## The Biblical Words
- Naming someone
 - Calling someone to a task or state of life
 - Extending an invitation or command to salvation that may be sinfully disregarded
 - God's drawing people into a saving relationship with Himself

- ## The Two Calls: General
- Berkhof — “the presentation and offering of salvation in Christ to sinners, together with an earnest exhortation to accept Christ by faith, in order to obtain the forgiveness of sins and life eternal.”
 - The elements
 - Outward or external but genuine (Is. 1:18-20; Matt. 21:37; 2 Tim. 2:13)
 - Universal (Is. 45:22; 55:1; Matt. 11:28; Rev. 22:17)
 - Can be—and often is—rejected (Matt. 22:1-14; Luke 14:16-24)

- ## The Two Calls: Effectual
- Grudem:
 - “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.”
 - Westminster Confession:
 - “All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, He is pleased, in His appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by His Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God; taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them a heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and, by His almighty power determining them to that which is good; and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ; yet so as they come most freely, being made willing by His grace.

The Two Calls: Effectual

- Characteristics:
 - Specific or particular
 - Inward
 - Efficacious or effective
 - Rom. 8:29
 - John 6:44
 - Immutable
 - Rom. 8:29-30; 11:29
 - Holy
 - Rom. 1:7

Illustrations of the Effectual Call

- The raising of Lazarus (John 11:39-43)
- Paul (Acts 9:1-9; cf. 26:19)
- Lydia (Acts 16:14)

The Logistics of the Effectual Call

- The One Who Calls: God the Father
 - Rom. 1:6-7; 8:28, 30; 1 Cor. 1:2, 9, 24; Gal. 1:15; 2 Tim. 1:9; Heb. 9:15; Jude 1
- The Means God Uses: the Gospel
 - 2 Th. 2:13-14 - He called you through our gospel

The Application

- Make sure of your calling (2 Pet. 1:10).
- Be faithful to deliver the external call—the gospel (Rom. 10:14-15).
- Trust God to use your sharing of the gospel to effectively call those He has chosen (Acts. 16:14).
- Remember why you were called (Rom. 8:28).

Called...

- To be holy
 - Rom. 1:6-7 – called as saints
 - Phil. 3:13-14 – I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
 - 1 Th. 4:7 – For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.
 - 2 Tim. 1:9 – who has saved us and called us with a holy calling
 - 1 Pet. 1:15 – but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior

Called...

- To have fellowship with Christ
 - 1 Cor. 1:9 – God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- To enjoy freedom
 - Gal. 5:13 – For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
- To have peace in our relationships with fellow believers
 - Col. 3:15 – Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Called...

- To a life of proclamation and praise
 - 1 Pet. 2:9 – But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- To a life of perseverance, even in suffering for Christ
 - 1 Pet. 2:20-21 – For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God. For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.

Called...

- To receive the kingdom of God, eternal life, and the glory of heaven
 - 1 Th. 2:12 – walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.
 - 1 Tim. 6:12 – take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.
 - 1 Pet. 5:10 – After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.