

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH  
***THE PIONEER BAPTIST***

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*“Preaching the same truth since before Kentucky was a state.”*

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## **THE EFFECTUAL CALL**

By: C. D. Cole

**II Peter 1:10, “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure...”**

Men come into a saved state by a Divine call. We are saints by calling. I Peter 2:9, *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”* Romans 1:7, *“To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”* II Thessalonians 2:14, *“Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

The verb “call” is used to express the act of naming. Matthew 1:21, *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”* Luke 1:13, *“But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.”*

The verb “call” is also used in the sense of inviting or summoning. Luke 14:12, 13, *“Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours: lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.”*

It is necessary to make some further distinctions. The Scriptures distinguish between an external call and an internal call; between a general call and a special call; between a call that is resisted and a

call that is effectual.

The outward or general call is merely an invitation or command to believe on Christ. The inward or effectual call causes acceptance of the invitation, and obedience to the command. The general call makes an outward appeal; the special call effects an inward change. The general call is made by the preacher; the effectual call is made by the Holy Spirit. A physical illustration of the effectual call is the raising of Lazarus from the dead. John 11:43, *“And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.”*

### **NATURE OF CALL**

The nature of this call: an inward work of grace. No outward appeal is sufficient. Proverbs 1:24, *“Because I have called, and ye refused: I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded.”* It is a miraculous call: The dead hear it. John 5:25, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.”* It gives sight to the blind. II Corinthians 4:3, 6, *“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost...For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”* I Peter 2:9, *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”* It opens the heart, as in the case of Lydia. Acts 16:14, *“And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the*

*things which were spoken of Paul.”* It is irresistible. It has behind it the power of God, who commands light to shine out of darkness. To successfully resist it would be for the creature to overcome the Creator. It would mean the breaking of the Scriptures, which Christ says cannot be done. Romans 8:28, *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*

### **NECESSITY OF CALL**

The necessity of this call. Because the word only is not sufficient. I Thessalonians 1:5, *“For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.”* Note that the word of the Gospel was preached, but something had to be added to the word; the Holy Spirit wrought in the heart. There is not an example in the Bible of a person being saved without the Gospel. II Thessalonians 2:13, 14, *“But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* I Corinthians 15:1, 2, *“Moreover, Brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are*

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saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain." Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Is there any fault with the word? Before we answer this question let us ask another question. Why is it that man cannot be saved by the law? Is the trouble with the law? No, but because there is inability in the sinner. Romans 8:3, 4, "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." But someone may reply that man of himself is able to accept Christ. But no, you are wrong. Man, by nature, is as much an enemy to grace as he is to law, and left to himself he would no more trust Christ than he would obey the law. Romans 8:7, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." His record under the Gospel is no better than under law. Unbelief is a sin of which the Holy Spirit must convict. It is a terrible thought that men will not even believe the glad tidings of salvation when it is preached unto them, but it is a fact witnessed to both by the word of God and by observation. John 6:44, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..."

The results of our ministry in the salvation of the lost is dependent upon this call. II Thessalonians 3:1, "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you." I Corinthians 3:5-7, "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."

### EVIDENCE OF CALL

The evidences of this call. How may a person know he has received this call? He will have spiritual discernment; the Gospel will no longer be hid. I Corinthians 1:24, "But unto them which are

called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." He will be conscious of new desires. There will be a longing for holiness. II Timothy 1:9, "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." There will be a thirsting after God. Psalm 42:1, 2, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God..." There will be a growth in grace. II Peter 1:5-10, "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."

### GUARANTEE OF CALL

The guarantee of this call. It guarantees that every future experience of the one called shall be for his good. Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

It guarantees future glory. Romans 8:30, "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

### WHY CALLED

The why of this call. It is made in pursuance of God's eternal purpose. II Timothy 1:9, "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." Romans 8:28, "...to them who are the called..." Salvation is not an accident; it is not a chance happening, but a coming to

pass of God's purpose. It does not depend upon freewill. It is the Divine process by which the foreknown are brought into a saved state. Election in itself does not make a man holy, but marks out the ones that are to be made holy. Ephesians 1:4, 5, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will." Election is not salvation, but is unto salvation. The Divine call is the inaugural of the elect; the induction into saintship.

No one would come to Christ without this call. Parable of the great supper: Luke 14:16-24, "Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper." God is not merely the author of the plan of salvation, but of the fact of salvation.

Isaac Watts put this truth into verse:

"Why was I made to hear thy voice,  
And enter while there's room;  
When thousands make a wretched choice,  
And rather starve than come?"

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*'Twas the same love that spread the feast,  
That sweetly forced us in;  
Else we had still refused to taste,  
And perished in our sin.'*

#### PRACTICAL VALUE

It honors the Holy Spirit by ascribing

to Him a part in our salvation. John 1:12, 13, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

It humbles us by reminding us of our terrible depravity. John 6:65, "...no man

can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father."

It robs us of any ground of glorying in the flesh. I Corinthians 1:29, 31, "That no flesh should glory in his presence...That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

## **ABANDONED TRUTH: THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE AND COMPANION STUDY GUIDE**

After much prayer and consideration, Brother Tom Ross has decided to publish **Abandoned Truth: The Doctrines of Grace** once again. **Abandoned Truth** was first published in 1991, then again in 1996. It has been out of print for several years. He has had many requests to print it again over the years.

**Abandoned Truth** is a Scriptural, concise, and readable study of the doctrines of grace from A to Z. Each point of sovereign grace is explained in detail and common objections are answered from the Scripture. It has been used in Bible Schools, Institutes, Sunday School classes, small group studies, and by Home School groups through the years.

Brother Ross has also developed an optional **Companion Study Guide** with 304 questions that have the answers or where to find them in the back of the workbook. This was previously used as a workbook for a Correspondence College Course. He believes the **Companion Study Guide** will be a tremendous help to those who want to be thoroughly acquainted with these precious truths.

He will be taking prepaid orders for the book until May 15, at which time he will send the finished product to the printer. **IMPORTANT: If he doesn't receive your pre-paid order by 5-15-07 then he will assume that you do not want a copy of the book.** It has been 11 years since the last reprint, so he doesn't know when or if it will ever be printed again.

Once the book is printed there will be very few copies available for purchase. He plans on listing the names of individuals, schools, and churches who pre-paid in the front cover of the book so when you send your payment please let him know how you want to be acknowledged (include your website if you wish).

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As of this writing Brother Ross still has 15 copies of *Teachings on the Local Church* for \$20 per book plus shipping. He has 50 copies of *Outlines of Systematic Theology* for \$10 per book plus shipping. He has 20 copies of *Cultivating Christian Character* for \$12 per book plus shipping. He doesn't know when or even if any of these books will be re-printed in the near future. Call for availability on these books before placing your order.

