PLACERITA BIBLE CHURCH

DECEMBER 2, 2018

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Lazarus and the TULIP, Part 4

Selected Scriptures

IV. Irresistible Grace

A. How to understand this doctrine (Col. 2:13; Acts 13:48)

Irresistible grace refers to the biblical truth that whatever God _____ to happen will inevitably come to pass, even in the salvation of individuals. The Holy Spirit will work in the lives of the elect so that they will _____ to come to Christ and to believe in His name.

<u>Two Kinds of Calls</u>

A _____ call - an external, universal call for all people to come to Christ (Matt. 11:28; Jn. 7:37; Acts 17:30; Lk. 14:15-24)

The _____ call - an internal, effectual call for the elect, which not only issues the invitation but provides the willingness and ability to respond (Jn. 10:3-4; Psa. 115:3; Isa. 55:10-11; Rom. 11:29; Rom. 8:29-30)

<u>The Order of Salvation (*Ordo Salutis*)</u>

1. Foreknowledge
2. Predestination
3. Election
4. **<u>Effectual calling (irresistible grace)</u>**
5. Regeneration
6. Conversion (repentance and faith)
7. Justification
8. Adoption
9. Sanctification (preservation)
10. Glorification

B. How it is taught in the Gospel of John

1. Irresistible grace is a _____ of the Spirit (Jn. 3:3-6)
2. Irresistible grace is a result of Jesus' _____ (Jn. 6:38-39; 18:9)
3. Irresistible grace is God _____ you and drawing you (Jn. 6:44-45; 65)
4. Irresistible grace is God the Father _____ Himself known to you through the gospel (Jn. 15:13-15)
5. Irresistible grace is _____ without seeing (Jn. 20:27-29)

C. How it is illustrated in the resurrection of Lazarus (Jn. 11:38-44)

1. Jesus effectually ***<u>called</u>*** Lazarus out of the grave (v. 43)
2. Lazarus came out ***<u>willingly</u>*** (v. 44a)
3. The grace that saves you is also a grace that ***<u>sanctifies</u>*** you (v. 44b)

TAKE HOME

- Jesus ***<u>loved</u>*** Lazarus.
- Jesus ***<u>raised</u>*** Lazarus.
- There was never any thought of ***<u>resistance.</u>***

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."* These questions are designed to help you apply today's message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. What struck you about the definition given for irresistible grace? Is there ever a time when you thought you could resist God's grace? What happened?

2. Read Colossians 2:13 and Acts 13:48. How do these verses reaffirm irresistible grace?

3. What is the difference between the general call and the specific call? What does "effectual calling" mean? Which verses given in that section help you understand this best?

4. What is the *Ordo Solutis*? Do you believe it is important to have a general understanding of the order of salvation? Why or why not?

5. Read John 6:44-45, 65. How do these verses teach irresistible grace? What does "draw" actually mean? Do you have an issue with this? Why or why not?

6. Which one of the other passages in John does the clearest job of teaching irresistible grace from your vantage point? What questions still need to be answered?

7. Read John 11:43-44. How do these verses illustrate irresistible grace through the story of Lazarus? What implications can you see here for your own spiritual life?

8. Read the take home points. Do they ring true to you? If people say that you can resist the grace of God in the effectual calling then do they really understand the Doctrines of Grace at all?

"Oh yes," the older Christian said. "I apologize for that. I really should have said something about my part. My part was running away, and His part was running after me until He caught me!"

- Harry A. Ironside