

Session 10

Common Grace/Election

I. Discipleship Scenario

2. Discussion Questions

a. “Common Grace” (Chap. 17 of Bible Doctrine)

Review Questions

- If the punishment is death (Rom.6:23), how can God continue to give blessings to mankind?
- Differentiate between *saving grace* and *common grace*.
- Give an example of common grace in the following realms:
 1. The physical realm
 2. The intellectual realm
 3. The moral realm
 4. The creative realm
 5. The societal realm
 6. The religious realm
- List four reasons for God’s bestowal of common grace.

Questions for Personal Application

- Before you read this chapter, did you have different viewpoint on whether unbelievers deserve the ordinary benefits of the world around them? How has your perspective changed, if at all?
- Do you know of examples when God has answered the prayers of unbelievers who were in difficulty, or answered your prayers for an unbelieving friend? Has it provided an open door for sharing the gospel?
- In what ways will the doctrine of common grace affect the way in which you relate to an unbelieving friend or neighbor?
- Has this chapter affected your view to the influence of God on creative areas like art, architecture, music, poetry, or any other creative expressions.
- If you show kindness to an unbeliever and he/she does not come accept Christ, has it done any good in God’s sight (see Matt. 5:44; Luke 6:32-36)?

What good has it done? Why do you think God is good even to those who will never be saved? Do you think we have any obligation to give more effort to showing good to believers or unbelievers?

b. “Election” (Chap. 18 of Bible Doctrine)

Review Questions

- Define election and give three examples from the NT in support of this doctrine.
- Give three ways in which the NT views the doctrine of election.
- If God’s election of people based upon his foreknowledge of their faith? Explain.
- What is the relationship between God’s election and a person’s choice to accept Christ?
- Since both Reformed and Arminian theologians agree that in some sense God wills everyone to be saved (see 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9), and since it is also true that not all *are* saved, how would each side of the debate answer the question, “*What does God apparently deem more important than saving everyone?*”
- What are the differences between Scripture’s presentation of the doctrine of election and the doctrine of reprobation?

Questions for Personal Application

- Do you think that God chose you individually to be saved before the creation of the world? Do you think he did it on the basis of the fact that he knew you would believe in Christ, or was it “*unconditional election*”, not based on anything that He foresaw in you that made you worthy of his love? Regardless of how you answered, explain how you feel in relation to God.
- Does the doctrine of election give you any comfort or assurance about your future?
- Is the doctrine of election one that has caused you to struggle in the past? What are the issues you struggle/struggled with? Has any of this material helped you in your understanding?
- Does the doctrine of election as described in this chapter sense any unfairness in God for not saving everyone? Has it made you feel like a helpless robot or a puppet in God’s hands? Why/Why not?

- What effect can the material on this chapter have on your motivation to evangelize the lost? Can you think how the doctrine of election can actual be a positive encouragement to evangelize (see 1 Thess. 1:4-5; 2 Tim. 2:10)?
- How would you respond to a person who argues that he/she cannot be held responsible for not becoming a Christian because God did not elect him/her?

3. Scripture Memory Verse

Luke 6:35-36 ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Ephesians 1:3-6 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

4. Exercise

Thank God for the mystery of the doctrine of election and the call to human responsibility. Take time to pray for increased understanding of God's Word, yet a yielding to God where His Word is silent. Pray for specific people who are lost and need to gospel in your relationships and community. Conclude the course with thanksgiving to God for this year of study and for opening our hearts to greater understanding.

5. Assignment for Next Time

Read chapters 19-20 in Bible Doctrine

Next meeting is _____.