

Session 11

The Gospel Call / Regeneration

1. Discipleship Scenario

2. Discussion Questions

a. "*The Gospel Call*" (Chap. 19 of Bible Doctrine)

Review Questions

- In what order would you place the following three aspects of the blessings of salvation: effective calling, justification, and predestination? Why?
- What is the difference between "effective calling" and "general calling" (or the "gospel call")?
- What three elements must be present in the gospel call?
- In light of the doctrine of election (ch.18), is the gospel call really necessary? Why?

Questions for Personal Application

- Can you remember the first time you heard the gospel and responded to it? Can you describe what it felt like in your heart? Do you think the Holy Spirit was working to make the gospel call effective in your life? Did you resist at the time?

- In your explanation of the gospel to other people, have some elements been missing? If so, what difference would it make if you added those elements to your explanation of the gospel? What is the one thing most needed to make your proclamation of the gospel more effective?
- Before reading this chapter, have you thought of Jesus in heaven speaking the words of the gospel invitation personally to people even today? If non-Christians begin to think of Jesus speaking to them in this way, how do you think it will affect their response to the gospel?
- Do you understand the elements of the gospel clearly enough to present them to others? Can you easily turn in the Bible to find four or five appropriate verses that would explain the gospel clearly to people? (Memorizing the elements of the gospel call and the verses that explain it should be one of the first disciplines of the Christian life.)

b. "*Regeneration*" (Chap. 20 of Bible Doctrine)

Review Questions

- Does a person play an active role in regeneration? Explain.
- Compare and contrast effective calling and regeneration.
- What is the relationship between regeneration and saving faith?

- Can a person be regenerated and show no evidence in his life? Support your answer from Scripture.

Questions for Personal Application

- Have you been born again? Is there evidence of new birth in your life? Do you remember a specific time when regeneration occurred in your life? Can you describe how you knew something had happened?

- If you (or a friend who comes to you) are not sure whether you have been born again, what would Scripture encourage you to do in order to gain greater assurance (or to be truly born again for the first time)?

- What do you think about the fact that your regeneration was totally a work of God, and that you contributed nothing to it? How does it make you feel toward yourself? How does it make you feel toward God?

- Are there areas where the results of regeneration are not very clearly seen in your own life? Do you think it is possible for a person to be regenerated and then stagnate spiritually so that there is little or no growth? Under what conditions might that happen? To what degree does the kind of church one attends, the teaching one receives, the kind of Christian fellowship one has, and the regularity of one's personal time of Bible reading and prayer affect one's own spiritual life and growth?

3. Scripture Memory Verse

Matthew 11:28-30 ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

John 3:5-8 ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind¹ blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

4. Exercise

Take time to discuss different people's (in the group) experience of regeneration. What evidence did you observe in your life when you were first born again?

5. Assignment for Next Time

Read chapters 21-22 in Bible Doctrine.

Next meeting is _____.