

Effectual Calling

Scripture speaks of “salvation” in three tenses:

Ephesians 2:4-5 (Salvation as past)

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace *you have been saved*.

Philippians 2:12-13 (Salvation as present)

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, *work out your own salvation* with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Romans 5:9 (Salvation as future)

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more *shall we be saved* by him from the wrath of God.

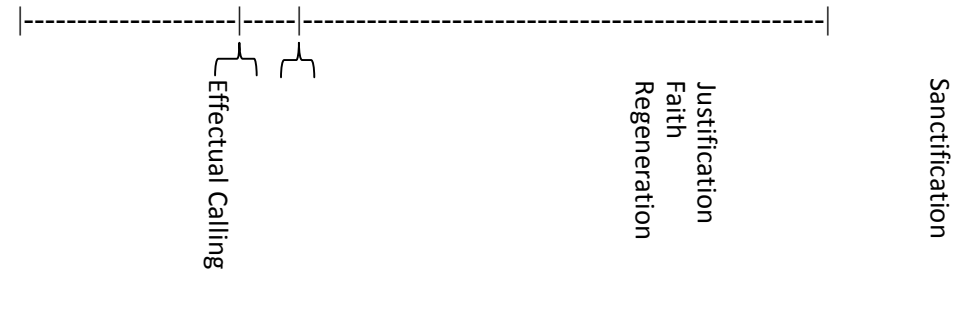
Salvation is not just a single event, but a series of events

- *we have been saved* | *we are being saved* | *and we will be saved!*
- enormously helpful in understanding our salvation
 - in what ways do we participate in our salvation?
 - in what ways are we entirely passive? Salvation is from the Lord!
- implications for predestination

Introduction to the *Ordo Salutis* (Order of Salvation)

<u>Ordo Salutis</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Our role</u>
Effectual Calling	God calls us out	passive
Regeneration	Our hearts awakened	passive
Faith	Trust in Christ	active
Justification	Declared righteous	passive
Sanctification	Growth in holiness	active
Glorification	Resurrected life	passive

A timeline of *Ordo Salutis*



The Call of God

1 Peter 2:9-10

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who **called you out of darkness into his marvelous light**. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

There are two calls: (1) General gospel call – for all people

Mark 16:15-16

¹⁵ And Jesus said to his disciples, “Go into **all the world** and **proclaim the gospel to the whole creation**. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

(2) Effectual Call – only for those chosen by God

Acts 16:13-14

¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. **The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.**

Other passages:

Matthew 22:1-14

For many are called, but few are chosen.

1 Thessalonians 1:4-5

⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you **not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit** and with full conviction.

1 Corinthians 1:23-24

²³ **We preach** Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ **but to those who are called**, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Romans 1:7

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and **called to be saints**:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Implications of Effectual Call

(1) This is God's sovereign act; we are entirely passive

- which means we are predestined

John 11:43-44

⁴³ When he had said these things, **he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."** ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth.

(2) Gives us deep assurance

- if we are called by God, we will surely be saved

John 6:37-39

³⁷ **All that the Father gives me will come to me**, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that **I should lose nothing of all that he has given me**, but raise it up on the last day.

(3) We need to live true to our call

Ephesians 4:1-3

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to **walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called**, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Westminster Confession of Faith (chapter 10, section 1)

All those whom God has predestinated unto life, and those only, He is pleased, in His appointed 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 an 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.

Notes

Scripture speaks of “salvation” in three tenses

- we speak of salvation as a past event (when we believed)
- but Scripture has a much richer, and deeper understanding

Ephesians 2:4-5 (Salvation as past)

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace *you have been saved*.

Salvation has already happened in us

- we are saved from our sins

But salvation is also still happening

Philippians 2:12-13 (Salvation as present)

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, *work out your own salvation* with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

People get uncomfortable – “work out our salvation”

- feels ominous and threatening – is salvation still indeterminate?
- and does this mean we “do our salvation” (idea of working)
- but it’s still of grace – “God is working in us”
- and we shouldn’t feel insecure – salvation is still happening
- continual process of being progressive rescued from sin

Romans 5:9 (Salvation as future)

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more *shall we be saved* by him from the wrath of God.

Scripture also speak of salvation awaiting us in the future

- there is still a future glorious salvation to come

Salvation is not just a single event, but a series of events

- *we have been saved* | *we are being saved* | *and we will be saved!*

Enormously helpful in understanding our salvation

- in what ways do we participate in our salvation?
- in what ways are we entirely passive? Salvation is from the Lord!
- implications for predestination | who is ultimately responsible?

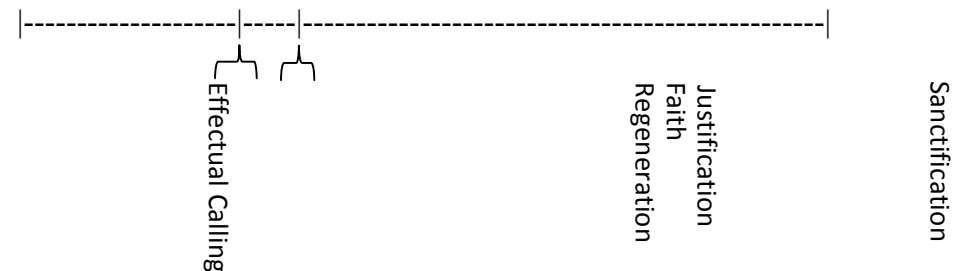
Also, thinking through our salvation encourages us

- we’re taking apart our salvation and thinking through it logically
- deeply encouraging and faith-building | honors God as savior
- helps us understand – passive and active in our salvation

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A timeline of *Ordo Salutis*



The Call of God

1 Peter 2:9 – “called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”

- God’s calling is simply the call out of sin/death into salvation

Two calls

- but isn’t everyone called?
- does everyone who is called (hears gospel) saved?

General call – for all people

Mark 16 – “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”

- we are to indiscriminately call all people to salvation

But not everyone who hears the general call will be saved

- there is a call that God empowers with his Spirit
- example: imagine a summons to the king
- but summons itself does not guarantee show up
- so the king sends his guard to accompany
- “effectual” – produces what it effects

Acts 16 – case of Lydia

- Paul preaches gospel to group of women (general call)
- but only Lydia came to believe the gospel
- why? because God effectually worked in her heart

Therefore – 2 calls

- general call given to all people – external, visible
- effectual call that God gives – internal, invisible
- general call + Spirit = effectual call

See this in many passages:

Matthew 22:1-14 – “for many are called, but few are chosen”

- “call” here is general, but not everyone is “chosen”

1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 – “gospel came not only in word”

- there is a gospel call that is only the word – general call
- and a call with power and Spirit and conviction – effectual call

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 – “we preach...but to those who are called”

- Paul preaches to everyone – general call
- but only those who are “called” are saved – effectual call

Romans 1:7 – “called to be saints”

- therefore, to be a Christian is synonymous with being “called”
- they are one and the same

Implications

(1) This is God’s sovereign act | we are entirely passive

- this is what God does to us; we have no role or part in this
- we do not call ourselves

Example – Jesus’ call of Lazarus

- can Lazarus call himself? no!
- why? because he is dead!
- so it depends entirely on God who to call

Which means, we are predestined

- ultimately, who is saved and who is not saved is up to God, not us

This is an upsetting doctrine for many people

- doesn’t seem fair
- this is true | but salvation isn’t about fairness, it’s about grace

When overcome hardness of doctrine – there is sweetness inside

- because it means salvation is of the Lord!
- it is God who saves us | we have no part in deciding to be saved
- therefore, it is all of God's grace
- this magnifies grace of God

(2) Gives us deep assurance

- remember Romans 8:30 – everyone called will be glorified
- since we are predestined, we cannot un-call ourselves
- the Spirit will most assuredly complete work in us

(3) We need to live according to our call

- in the call itself, we are entirely passive
- but the call does not produce passivity!
- we need to live in a manner true to our call (Eph. 4:1)
- call to holiness!