

## 2 Corinthians 4:6 Irresistible Grace Part 1: Effectual Calling

### **God's almighty command creates light in us who are darkness.**

#### **1) God's almighty command is the irresistible grace of effectual calling.**

- a) "God who said"—introduces an allusion to Genesis 1:2-3
- b) Parallel of God's creating Word and His saving Word
- c) God's Word at creation was effective—it produced whatever God willed.
- d) Irresistible Grace makes us willing.
  - i) Not by brute force
  - ii) By indomitable love
- e) Effectual Calling produces what is called.
  - i) Creation
  - ii) New Creation
- f) **Application:**
  - i) Personal humility
  - ii) Evangelism and missions

#### **2) God speaks into our barren darkness.**

- a) "God who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness'"—recalls condition of original creation before God formed it and filled it on the six days of creation
- b) The darkened creation, without form and void is analogous to the condition of the human soul in the darkness of sin.
  - i) Darkened minds (Eph. 4:18; Rom. 8:7)
  - ii) Darkened hearts (Rom. 1:21)
  - iii) "For at one time you were darkness" (Eph. 5:8)
- c) **Application:** Mourn for the darkness of the soul that produces the chaos in individual lives and in society. Recognize the root of it in humanity's rebellion against God.

#### **3) God's command calls forth Divine light in the knowledge of the person of Christ.**

- a) "has shone in our hearts"—God has called forth light in our hearts—both the inmost being and the whole being
- b) "to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ"
  - i) the light is given "in the heart"
  - ii) heart knowledge is both intellectual and affective (enlightening the mind and affections)
  - iii) the knowledge of the glory of God—the revelation of His attributes and works
  - iv) the face of Jesus Christ—"the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (4:4)
- c) Paul's Damascus Road Experience (Acts 9): When the light from heaven flashed around him, the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ shone in him.
- d) **Application:**
  - i) A *Heavenly* Calling (Heb. 3:1)—origin from Heaven; all glory to God
  - ii) A *Holy* Calling (Rom. 1:6, 7; 2 Tim. 1:8-13)—purpose for Christ's possession and God's glory; "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called" (Eph. 4:1); Because heart knowledge involves the mind and the affections there can be no dispassionate assent to the gospel in true conversion, there will be love and rejoicing filled with glory (1 Pet. 1:8).
  - iii) A *Hopeful* Calling (Phil. 3:14)—goal of the prize of conformity to and full enjoyment of Christ's glory; Jesus is coming again "to be glorified in His saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed" (2 Thess. 1:10).
  - iv) An *Effectual* Calling (Rom. 8:30)—certainty of success

**Doxology:** "To the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."—1 Timothy 1:17