

The Necessity of Evangelism

2 Timothy 2:8–10

2 Timothy 2:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel,

⁹ for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.

¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Introduction

Long before John Pipers book “Desiring God” or J.I Packers “Knowing God” or even Packers introduction to John Owens Book “The Death of Death in the Death of Christ”, was a

Clarion Call to “God-centered Evangelism” In 1961, J I Packers book

“Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God”

The nucleus of this Book was from an lecture given at the Pre-Mission Conference of the London Inter-Faculty Christian Union on October 24, 1959

It basically addressed

“If God is in control, why should we do anything at all? Why should we work? Why should we pray? And especially, why should we evangelize?”

In other words

God’s sovereignty, man’s responsibility and the Christian’s evangelistic duty

The aim of the discourse is to dispel the suspicion (current, it seems, in some quarters) that faith in the **absolute sovereignty of God hinders a full recognition and acceptance of evangelistic responsibility**, and to show that, on the contrary, only this faith can give Christians the strength that they need to fulfill their evangelistic task

If you have been a Christian for some time, you will eventually come across doctrines that teach that since God is in control of all, there is no need to evangelize. This is properly called

Hyper-Calvinism.

This is to be clearly distinguished from Calvinism or as some term the Doctrines of Grace.

Hyper Calvinism is serious error and some have gone as far as to say heresy.

But Calvinism is NOT Hyper Calvinism as so many incorrectly assume.

It is the doctrines of Calvinism that were the foundations of the the great missionary movement of the past.

It is precisely because they had a correct understanding of the Depravity of man and the inability of man that they knew that IF God did not Act then none would be saved.

They knew that they could be successful in evangelism in light of the condition and rebellion of man specifically because God had Elected a people and Predestined men to salvation.

So with that said understand

This is not a peripheral issue

It is not an issue to be swept under the theological debate rug.

It is also a needed discussion so that you understand what the scripture says regarding this subject.

Lesson

I. The Condition of Men

Men are Sinners

Men are Sentenced

II. The Complexity of Scripture

The Sovereignty of God

The Responsibility of Man

III. The Command of God

The Clarity of the Command

The Necessity of the Command

I. The Complexity of Scripture

A. The Sovereignty of God

General Sovereignty

Daniel 4:34–35 (NKJV)

³⁴ And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever:

For His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion,
And His kingdom *is* from generation to generation.

³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing;

He does according to His will in the army of heaven
And *among* the inhabitants of the earth.

No one can restrain His hand

Or say to Him, “What have You done?”

Psalm 103:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ The Lord has established His throne in heaven,
And His kingdom “sovereignty” rules over all.

The Sovereignty of God in Salvation

Ephesians 1:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Romans 8:29–30 (NKJV)

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

1 Peter 1:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² elect according to the

foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:

2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, ¹⁴ to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 9:1–13 (NKJV)

9 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service *of God*, and the promises; ⁵ of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ *came*, who is over all, *the* eternally blessed God. Amen.

⁶ But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel, ⁷ nor *are* they all children because they are the seed of

Abraham; but, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.”

⁸ That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. ⁹ For this *is* the word of promise: “At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son.”

¹⁰ And not only *this*, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, *even* by our father Isaac ¹¹ (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ¹² it was said to her, “The older shall serve the younger.” ¹³ As it is written, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”

Romans 9:15–19 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.”

¹⁶ So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.”

¹⁸ Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

¹⁹ You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?”

Acts 13:48 (NKJV)

⁴⁸ Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

God is ultimately responsible for God who is saved

add to this that Man has no ability to respond to the Gospel.

For instance all the statement in scripture that tell man what he must do to be saved, **does not speak to his ability to do them.**

It is just a clear statement of the requirement

John 3:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 1:12 (NKJV)

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

John 5:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Acts 2:37–38 (NKJV)

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV)

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “*whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”

B. Mans Inability

John 3:1–8 (NKJV)

3 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

³ Jesus answered and said to him, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, 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 wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Matthew 19:21–26 (NKJV)

²¹ Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

²³ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁵ When His disciples heard *it*, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁶ But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV)

2 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

Romans 8:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

John 6:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.**

John 6:65 (NKJV)

⁶⁵ And He said, **“Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”**

C. The Clarification for Evangelism

1. Theological Clarification

1. Some say, IF God is Sovereign in Salvation, why do evangelism.

the RIGHT Response

If God is NOT Sovereign, Why do evangelism.

The first question “IF God is Sovereign, Why do Evangelism

Presupposes a non Biblical condition of God and Man

A. A Wrong view of God

1. IF God is Sovereign as if possibility HE is not
2. God does not have the right to save whom he will.
3. That Salvation is somehow a deserved Right (He owes man a chance)

B. A Wrong View of Man (The ISSUE)

1. Man is not fallen all the way
2. Man is not dead, just sick
3. Man is not blind, but just has cataracts
4. Man is able to believe, repent

the RIGHT Response

If God is NOT Sovereign, Why do evangelism

The Response correctly assumes

A. **A right view of God**

1. He IS Sovereign
2. He can save whomever he will
3. He owes you nothing. all by grace and mercy

B. **A Right view of Man**

1. Man is completely fallen
2. Man is really dead
3. Man is really blind
4. Man cannot come, believe and repent.

2. The Missional Clarification

2 Corinthians 5:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Romans 10:13–15 (NKJV)

¹³ For “*whoever calls* on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

John 10:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ **And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.**

Acts 18:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, **“Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent;**
¹⁰ **for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt**

you; for I have many people in this city.”¹¹ And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

2 Timothy 2:1–10 (NKJV)

2 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵ And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops. ⁷ Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

⁸ Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.

¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

1 Corinthians 9:19–23 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰ and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law; ²¹ to those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law; ²² to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some. ²³ Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you*.