

Make your call and election sure.

2 Peter 1:10-11

Thesis: To encourage Christians in the great confidence we have of salvation.

1. Do you ever wonder if you are saved or not? Do you ever question your salvation? Can you ever really know for certain you are saved?
2. As Peter continues his epistle, he knew some in the churches he was writing to were doubting these very things and in danger of losing their salvation due to the rise of false teachers. However, Peter encourages to continue on the journey they started by making their call and election sure.
3. Some believe this teaches (along with other passages) the impossibility of apostasy. It is impossible to lose your salvation. Once saved always saved. Nothing you can do will make you fall away from grace. This is built on a false premise that salvation is unconditional (i.e. we do not have to do anything to obtain it).
4. On the other side of it many Christians are uncertain of their salvation. Not really sure if they will make it to heaven or not. Peter says otherwise. He says we can know for sure. Therefore it is important to make our call and election certain.

I. The power of the calling.

A. God calls us.

1. Peter begins by once again urging diligence. We are expected to give our best efforts to God's calling of us.
 - a. Notice Peter brackets vs. 5-9 with the word diligence.
 - b. God always expects to give our best efforts.
2. God indeed calls people. How, is the question?
 - a. Is it through a strong feeling? A small still voice? Is it an overpowering act of God's sovereign will (i.e. irresistible grace)?
 - b. What if any role does man play?

B. God calls us through the gospel (2 Ths. 2:14).

1. What is the gospel?
 - a. The gospel is the good news, the glad tidings (Rm. 10:15).
 - b. The living enduring word of God (1 Pt. 1:25).
2. Through the gospel God calls us to salvation (Rm. 1:16-17).
 - a. It reveals God's power to make man righteous.

3. Through hearing the gospel everyone is called to make a decision.
 - a. Those who obey it answer the call and become the called.
 - b. Those who do not do so by their own choosing.
4. God took the initiative (through the gospel) but man must make the choice to respond. God never over rules mans free will. His grace can be resisted (Gal. 2:21).

II. The position of the called.

A. The called are God's elect.

1. The position of our standing with God has changed based upon being called.
 - a. Now we are the elect/ chosen of God.
2. Our election is according to God's foreknowledge (1 Pt. 1:2).
 - a. Simply means, He simply took the initiative before the foundation of the world to provide a plan of redemption for mankind.
 - b. God knew man would be incapable of saving himself.
3. Before the foundation of the world God foreknew/ predetermined. . .
 - a. Jesus to be the Lamb of God (1 Pt. 1:18-20). His death would be the way mankind would be redeemed from sin.
 - b. The details of His death (Acts 2:23).
 - c. Those who are in Christ would be His chosen ones (Eph. 1:4).

B. The called will never stumble.

1. Stumbling is a real possibility. It is possible to lose your salvation (2 Tm. 2:17-18; Jm. 5:19-20; Gal. 5:4).
 - a. This is why Peter says give diligence.
2. He now speaks with absolute certainty about the outcome of Christian life. It is conditioned upon two things.
 - a. Our diligence. Not spiritually indifferent.
 - b. Doing "these things". What things? (vs. 5-9). Continued spiritual growth and maturity.
3. Implies failing to do so will cause one to lose their salvation.
4. You can know for certain you will never stumble (to the point of falling away from the Lord) and lose your salvation.

III. The placement of the called.

A. The called are in the Kingdom.

1. Of all the metaphors for the church, kingdom is the most used.
2. The kingdom was spoken of and anticipated by the prophets.
 - a. Immovable (Dan. 2:44).
 - b. Peaceful (Isa. 9:6-7).
 - c. For all nations (Mich. 4:1-3).
3. John proclaimed it was at hand (Mt. 3:2). Jesus preached it.
4. The Colossians were part of it (Col. 1:13).
5. The Kingdom began on the first Pentecost following the resurrection (Acts 2). Already here. Not to come at eh 2nd coming.
 - a. Those who are saved are part of it.
6. The saved (those in the church) are in the kingdom now and at the 2nd coming will enter into the eternal phase.

B. The called are supplied a way into the Kingdom.

1. As if the idea of being in God's Kingdom is not exciting enough, Peter also adds we can be certain we will not miss it.
2. Through our initial obedience to the gospel (answering God's call) being in Christ (God's chosen/ elect) combined with our continued spiritual growth and maturity (vs. 5-9) the way to Heaven is opened wide.
 - a. We supply the virtues/ graces and God supplies the entrance.

Conclusion:

1. Living the Christian life demands our best effort and is worthy of it. Going to Heaven is no accident. The rewards of our efforts should spur us on to even more. That is why Peter reminded us to make our call and election sure.
2. So what do we learn from this?
 - A. God calls people only through the gospel. He never overpowers our free will.
 - B. It is up to us to answer God's call through obedience.
 - C. It is possible to lose your salvation, but through continued growth and maturity, it is highly unlikely.
 - D. We can know with absolute certainty our entrance into Heaven is guaranteed.