



AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE REGENERATION

ARTICLE 10 - WHY OTHERS WHO ARE CALLED DO COME

"Others who are called by the ministry of the gospel do come and are converted. This is not to be ascribed to man. He does not distinguish himself by his free will above others who are furnished with equal or sufficient grace for faith or conversion. It is to be ascribed to God. He has chosen His own in Christ from eternity and calls them effectually within time. He gives them faith and repentance; He delivers them from the power of darkness and transfers them to the kingdom of His Son (Col. 1:13). All this He does that they may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called them out of darkness into His marvelous light, and may boast not of themselves but of the Lord..."

18. It has been asked, "If God could create any type of salvation plan, why would He chose this one?"
How does the Bible answer this question? Ro. 9:16; I Pet. 2:9; I Cor. 1:31; Eph. 2:8-9

ARTICLE 11 - HOW GOD BRINGS ABOUT CONVERSION

"God carries out His good pleasure in the elect and works in them true conversion in the following manner. He takes care that the gospel is preached to them, and powerfully enlightens their minds by the Holy Spirit, so that they may rightly understand and discern the things of the Spirit of God. By the efficacious working of the same regenerating Spirit He also penetrates into the innermost recesses of man. He opens the closed and softens the hard heart, circumcises that which was uncircumcised, and instills new qualities into the will. He makes the will, which was dead, alive; which was bad, good; which was unwilling, willing; and which was stubborn, obedient. He moves and strengthens it so that, like a good tree, it may be able to produce the fruit of good works (I Cor. 2:10-14)."

19. Compare/contrast the two understandings mentioned in I Cor. 2:12-14; Ezek. 11:19-21; Deut. 30:6

The Man of God

The Natural Man

20. What Biblical example is given of one who received understanding? Acts 16:14
21. Once given understanding, can the man of God lose it? Explain Hebrews 6:4-6. Does this support the Biblical doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints or is it a warning if some were to fall away, they could not renew their salvation?

ARTICLE 12 - REGENERATION IS THE WORK OF GOD ALONE

"This conversion is the regeneration, the new creation, the raising from the dead (Eph. 5:14), the making alive (John 3:3), so highly spoken of in the Scriptures, which God works in us. But this regeneration is by no means brought about by outward teaching, by moral persuasion or by such a mode of operation that, after God has done His part, it remains in the power of man be to regenerated or not regenerated, converted or not converted. It is, however, clearly a supernatural, most powerful, and at the same time most delightful, marvelous, mysterious and inexpressible work. According to Scripture, inspired by the Author of this work, regeneration is not inferior in power to creation or the raising of the dead. Hence all those in whose hearts God works in this amazing way are certainly, unfailingly, and effectually regenerated and do actually believe. And then the will so renewed is not only acted upon and moved by God, but, acted upon by God, the will itself also acts. Therefore man himself is rightly said to believe and repent through the grace he has received."

22. How can we know if we have received the true regeneration of God? Phil. 2:13; 2 Cor. 4:6-7; 5:17



"FOR IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO WERE ONCE ENLIGHTENED, AND HAVE TASTED THE HEAVENLY GIFT, AND WERE MADE PARTAKERS OF THE HOLY GHOST... IF THEY SHALL FALL AWAY, TO RENEW THEM AGAIN UNTO REPENTANCE... HEBREWS 6:4-6

"THE OUTWARD CALL OF GOD, WHICH IS GIVEN TO ALL, CAN BE REJECTED. BUT THE INWARD CALL OF GOD ALWAYS RESULTS IN SALVATION."

PSALTER HYMNAL #387

'Tis not that I did choose Thee,
For Lord that could not be:
This heart would still refuse Thee,
Had thou not chosen me.
Thou from the sin that stained me
Has cleansed and set me free:
Of old Thou has ordained me,
That I should live to Thee.
'Twas sovereign mercy called me
And taught my opening mind;
The world had else enthralled me,
To heavenly glories blind.
My heart owns none before Thee,
For thy rich grace I thirst:
This knowing, if I love Thee,
Thou must have loved me first.