

Salvation According to God's Eternal Purpose

To those who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28 b)

This is a further description or characteristic of God's people. They are called not merely outwardly by the preaching of the Gospel, for this is common to them with unbelievers, but called also by the Spirit, with an internal and **effectual calling**, and made willing in the day of God's power. (Psalm 110:3) They are called according to God's eternal purpose, according to which He knew them, and purposed their calling before they were in existence; for all God's purposes are eternal.

It imports that their calling is solely the effect of grace; for when it is said to be a calling according to God's purpose, it is distinguished from a calling according to works. *'Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,'* (2 Timothy 1:9).

It imports that it is an effectual and permanent calling; for God's purposes cannot be defeated. *'The counsel of the Lord, that shall stand. (Proverbs 19:21)* Their calling is according to the purpose of Him *"who worketh all things according to the counsel of His own will,"* (Ephesians 1:11).

–Robert Haldane