

The Universal Call to Salvation.

John 3:14-19 *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”*

A. What is the Universal Call to Salvation?

1. The term “Universal Call” would be defined as a “General Call” to salvation. Or we can think of it as a “World Call” for every living soul to come to Christ.
2. God said in our text **V.V. 15 - 18**, *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*
3. God gives this call to the entire population of the world; therefore, it is the responsibility for man to answer. People that refuse to answer is without excuse.
4. God said in **Romans 1:19 - 20** *“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. (20) For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”* People that do not believe in God, or do not believe that God is the Sovereign power over the universe is without excuse.
5. It is the same for people because reject the Universal Call to come to Jesus Christ for redemption. They are “Without Excuse”.

B. Why don't all people answer The Universal Call?

1. People reject the universal call because they are bound to sin, they are blinded by sin and Satan, and they are at enmity with God. Their nature is to love sin.
2. First, they hate God, **Gen. 3:15** *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”*
 - a. Remember, the word enmity means – hostility or hatred.
 - b. The seed of the woman is Christ and those redeemed in Christ.
 - c. The words *“thee and thy seed”* is Satan and the world and those that will never answer the universal call.
 - d. Therefore, the world by nature hates God, they are Satan’s seed, and if God never translates them, they will never change their hate toward God and will never answer the universal call to come to Christ for redemption. **Rom. 8:7** *“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”*
3. Because of this natural enmity or hatred toward God, people will forever refuse God’s call for salvation. And because of their blindness by Satan and sin, they will reject God and Jesus for redemption. **Romans 3:10 - 11** *“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: (11) There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.”* And in verse 9 God said this includes *“both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;”* The words *“they are all under sin”* means they are under the power and dominion of sin, or they are the sovereignty controlled by sin.
4. People refuse the call for redemption because they love to live in sin. **John 3:19** *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”*

C. What is the Internal Call to Salvation

1. The eternal call is the effectual call of God. It is the call of the Holy Spirit through our spirit. God said He has *“delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son”* **Colossians 1:12 - 14** *“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: (13) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us*

*into the kingdom of his dear Son: (14) In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:" **He did it we did not.***

2. How did God translate us, first by quickening our dead spirit, then by giving an effectual call. Once the spirit is quickened, then the Holy Spirit can call us. **Romans 8:29 - 30** "*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*" He or His is mentioned 10 times in these two verses, this is God, God foreknew us, predestinated us, called us, justified us, and will glorify us, because "we" cannot and will not come to Christ on our own.
3. Even though we, the church and Christians send the True Gospel to the world and give a universal call to come to Christ, it does no good if the Holy Spirit does not give an external and internal call. **John 6:44** "*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*" And **John 6:65** "*And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.*" The word "draw" means - to drag – God draws us because man will not come on their own. Verse 64 "*But there are some of you that believe not...*"

D. What happens to those who refuse the general or universal call?

1. They are condemned to eternal hell. **John 3:18 - 20** "*He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (19) And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (20) For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.*" – People who never believe are "condemned already" because they reject the witness of God.
2. **1 John 5:9 - 12** "*If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. (10) He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. (11) And this is the*

record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."