

Some men resolve the reason why many gospel hearers shall be finally and forever lost, into the sovereign will, and primary pleasure of God, but here the judge of all the earth takes quite a different view of the subject. He never resolves the reason why any of his creatures are rejected and reprobated, into an arbitrary unconditional decree; but, on the contrary, he expressly tells us that the reason why any are reprobated, is, because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord. "They would none of his counsel; they despised all his reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way and be filled with their own devices."

We wish in the present article to call the attention of our readers to the *reasons why many are called, and few are chosen*.

It may be necessary at the very outset to explain the terms here employed. When we used the word *called*, many are *called*, we refer to the call or invitation to believe the gospel. And when we speak of *many* being called, we use the word *many* in its widest sense. It does not necessarily exclude any; and when used in connection with the invitations of the gospel, as we shall see, it embraces mankind sinners as such.

When we speak of the *chosen*, we refer to evangelical election, or the *election of individuals* not only to the enjoyment of distinguished blessings and privileges here, but to future and everlasting life and salvation. The reference is to persons who are chosen in Christ, chosen to salvation through the sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit, and through the belief of the truth. When we use the word *few*, *few* are chosen, we mean those, those only, and all those who are influenced by the gospel so as to receive the truth in the love of it whatever be their relative number.

We believe that though the great majority of Gospel hearers at the present day are gospel unbelievers and consequently unsaved, yet when all the dispensations of God's grace, including the millennium dispensation, or golden age of our world's history spoken of by John in the Apocalypse, shall have come to a termination, it will then be found that the true, and chosen, and faithful, are not *few but many*. Yes, many shall come from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south, and shall sit down with Abraham, with Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven." In one of his visions, John says, "After this I beheld, and lo! a great multitude, of all nations, and kindred, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands."