

unbelievers to their choice, or leaves them to believe a lie, even these darkest words of the passage or its context imply the most comforting assurance against any mere arbitrary procedure on God's part, or such exercise of absolute sovereignty as might render faith or diligence vain. The election does not take effect but through faith; and none who believes perishes. Effectual calling is the very evidence of electing love; and we need no more than the outward call, the Gospel invitation, to warrant faith:—"whereunto he called you by our Gospel."

"He called you," and "by our Gospel."

The "calling" is inclusive doubtless both of the external and internal or effectual call. The Apostle undoubtedly refers to both in the case of those to whom he was writing—they were such as had believed. But the outward call or invitation had been addressed to them just in common with others. The secret decree of God's love could only be affirmed of them when that outward or common call was complied with. And how expressive of conversion this word "called!" How expressive of the power as well as the sovereignty of grace concerned in that change! He but *calls*; he speaks to the heart—and it is done. "He hath saved us and called us (2 Tim. i.) 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."

And we learn too what is the means or instrument in the hand of the Spirit, in this effectual operation. No doubt the whole word of truth—law as well as Gospel—is of use; but emphatically it is said, "by our Gospel." This is the great power of God. This it is which moves, draws the soul; convinced and alarmed by the law—but now only sweetly constrained. "Our Gospel"—the Gospel which I preach—says Paul: and he leaves us at no uncertainty what this was:—"We preach Christ crucified; to the Jew a stumbling-block, and to the Greek foolishness, but to them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." In the Gospel is eminently beheld the glory of God in the face of Jesus. There is seen provided the righteousness which the