48 GOD CALLING!

And the Spirit and the bride say, "'Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

REVELATION 22:17

The Spirit of God and the bride of Christ both beckon us to come to the Lord Jesus. The bride is clearly a reference to the church in the New Testament, that body of born-again believers who one day will be reunited with their Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the supreme task of the church to call people to come to Christ. It is also the Spirit who says, "Come." While the church issues this outward call, the Spirit of the Living God issues the inward call to hearts. They work in tandem: "the Spirit and the bride, say 'Come!'"

In the eighth chapter of Romans, we are introduced to a chain reaction effect. Those God foreknew, He predestined. Those He predestined, He called. Those He called, He justified. And those He justified, He also glorified. This mysterious calling of God upon our hearts is a significant part of His total redemptive plan. It is not as though we are somehow neutral in all of this and God chooses some