

Now knowing this, could you sincerely offer this miracle drug to this dying man? Could you urge, cajole, press, persuade, incite, encourage, exhort, invite, nag, goad, admonish, induce, convince, coax, browbeat, or bully him to take the lifesaving medicine, and do all of this sincerely, knowing that there is no possibility that he will accept it? What would be the point? Why would you even make the effort, except perhaps as a gesture of your good will in offering it, or perhaps as a mute but eloquent demonstration of his stubbornness and unreasonableness in refusing it?

In somewhat the same vein it is urged by some that offering the gospel to those whom God has passed by is insincere. They admit that God knows beforehand who will despise and reject the gospel; yet they themselves believe that they are under divine orders to preach to all men, and they do not feel that they act insincerely in doing so.

If it is insincere to offer a miracle drug to a dying man who you absolutely know will refuse it, is it also insincere of God to offer the saving gospel to perishing men who He absolutely foreknows will refuse it?

"Sincerity in extending an invitation does not involve an obligation to give a disposition to accept it." (Shedd.)

The invitation extended to all men may be seen as sincere for at least four reasons:

- (1) The call is simply to repent and believe, and is a revelation of a duty binding upon all men to whom the gospel is preached.
- (2) The general call of the gospel is the means ordained by God to gather in His chosen people.
- (3) It serves to show the unreasonable wickedness and perverseness of those who deliberately reject it.
- (4) All who actually do come in repentance and simple faith are actually saved, and received into the family of God.

"When the Gospel is presented to mankind in general," writes Loraine Boettner, "nothing but a sinful unwillingness on the part of some prevents their accepting and enjoying it. No stumbling block is put in their way. All that the call, contains is true; it is adapted to the conditions of all men and freely offered if they will repent and believe. No outside influence constrains them to reject it. The elect accept; the nonelect may accept if they will, and nothing but their own nature determines them to do otherwise."

-- *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*
(Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1954), p. 284.

Let it be stressed and emphasized and heavily underscored:

GOD SINCERELY OFFERS SALVATION TO ALL WHO WILL RECEIVE IT!