

B. The Means of Common Grace

God employs many means of bestowing His common grace upon human beings, but four in particular may be mentioned.

1. General revelation

External general revelation enlightens men to a knowledge of God's existence, His wisdom and power as seen in His handiwork, and His goodness in giving human beings fruitful seasons.

Psalm 19:1-4 -- "The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And the firmament is declaring the work of His hands.
Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard.
Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their utterances to the end of the world."

Romans 1:20 -- "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

Acts 14:17 -- "And yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.."

Internal general revelation enlightens man to an awareness of their createdness and sinfulness, their obligations to live according to their conscience and their failure to do so, and their consequent deserving of God's wrath and punishment.

Acts 17:24-29 -- "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; and He made from one every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.' Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man."