

a ~~good~~ reasonable Calvinistic position--not an extreme position at all. But ~~to~~ take one aspect of whether Spurgeon chose to use a particular form of invitation is a rather minor question. He certainly was urging people to believe in Christ. He certainly was giving ~~the giving~~ the Gospel invitation. Whether he asked them to raise hands or talk afterwards or whether he felt that after all the energy of a sermon he was entitled to a little rest there is no reason to stir up a big excitement about it.

Neher: Now we have a very common practice of the invitation at the end of evangelistic messages. Do you know ~~why~~ whether in that day it was as prevalent?

AAM: I don't know. But I heard an interesting story. There was a man who died about 3 yrs. ago who had a great Christian work. He founded the Conversion Center. He was particularly interested in work among the Roman Catholics. I was talking to him. He told me how he was converted. He said he went to a meeting where there was an evangelist. The evangelist gave an invitation. He came forward, accepted the Lord, and from that time on he just gave his life to serving the Lord. Later in talking with him, I found that early before that sometime, one day when he was out working in his front lawn a fellow came by who belonged to the OPC, and this fellow said to him, Is there a church in this neighborhood? He said, No. He said, Don't you think there ought to be one? He said, Yes, I should think it would be good. He said, Would you be willing to start one in your living room? He said, Yes. So he said, the man preached for a year and gave a good presentation of the doctrines in his home. A few people from the neighborhood came and he was much impressed with it. Then he went to this evangelistic meeting and answered the invitation. Then he told this man he had received Christ as Saviour and was going to give his life to serving him. And the man said, Well, you've been hearing me