

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

### LESSON 15: GLORIFYING AND ENJOYING GOD IN EFFECTUAL CALLING

#### Intro:

BIG IDEA: Glorify God for \_\_\_\_\_ your will so you embrace Christ as He is \_\_\_\_\_ to us in the gospel.

#### Question 31: What is effectual calling?

**Answer:** Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

#### Question 32: What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

**Answer:** They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

WLC Q. 67. What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's almighty power and grace, whereby (out of his free and special love to his elect, and from nothing in them moving him thereunto) he does, in his accepted time, invite and draw them to Jesus, by his Word and Spirit; savingly enlightening their minds, renewing and powerfully determining their wills, so as they (although in themselves dead in sin) are hereby made willing and able freely to answer his call, and to accept and embrace the grace offered and conveyed therein.

WLC Q. 68. Are the elect only effectually called?

A. All the elect, and they only, are effectually called; although others may be, and often are, outwardly called by the ministry of the Word, and have some common operations of the Spirit; who, for their willful neglect and contempt of the grace offered them, being justly left in their unbelief, do never truly come to Jesus Christ.

1. All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, he is pleased, in his appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by his Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death, in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation, by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God, taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them a heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and, by his almighty power, determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ: yet so, as they come most freely, being made willing by his grace.

- This section limits its \_\_\_\_\_ to those God has predestined to life: the \_\_\_\_\_.
- God is consistent between the \_\_\_\_\_, accomplishment & application of salvation.
- Salvation is \_\_\_\_\_ to individuals at the \_\_\_\_\_ & accepted time.

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- He calls the elect out of the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and death they live in by \_\_\_\_\_.
- He does this effectually- they are \_\_\_\_\_ to resist. He does it by Word & Spirit.
- Word & Spirit are the \_\_\_\_\_ appointed means God uses to call people.
- The elect are called, and enter into, the state of \_\_\_\_\_ and salvation by Christ.
- Minds are \_\_\_\_\_ so they savingly \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel.
- Heart transplant: hearts of \_\_\_\_\_ are removed and given hearts of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Where they used to be unresponsive to God now they \_\_\_\_\_: spiritually alive!
- God exerts His \_\_\_\_\_, almighty power, in doing it.
- This was a matter of debate with the Remonstrants leading to the Synod of \_\_\_\_\_.
- We embrace Christ \_\_\_\_\_. We've been made \_\_\_\_\_ by God's grace.

### Outward Call + Inward & Effectual Call = Salvation

“The liberty of the will is not invaded, for that would destroy its very nature; but its obstinacy is overcome, its perverseness taken away, and the whole soul powerfully, yet sweetly attracted, to the Savior.” **Robert Shaw**<sup>136</sup>

<sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **2 Corinthians 4**

- Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of those outside of Christ; can't perceive the light of Christ.
- God, who created light by speaking it into existence, \_\_\_\_\_ light in our hearts.
- We finally \_\_\_\_\_ the glory of God in Christ that was \_\_\_\_\_ there.

“It is true that you cannot know the sweetness of Christ, the excellency of Christ, as long as your foolish mind is darkened, until the Holy Spirit illumines or enlightens your mind spiritually.”

**R.C. Sproul**<sup>137</sup>

<sup>26</sup>And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. **Ezekiel 36**

<sup>136</sup> Shaw, pp. 121.

<sup>137</sup> Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 18-19.

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2. This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man, who is altogether passive therein, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it.

- God \_\_\_\_\_ this to no one. It is of God's free & special \_\_\_\_\_.
- God does not do this in response to anything in us. We are completely \_\_\_\_\_.
- Monergism: \_\_\_\_\_ . In regeneration, only God works & gets glory
- Conversion is \_\_\_\_\_ as we respond. We only can because of regeneration.
- God's grace then \_\_\_\_\_ us to answer the call to repent & believe.
- Grace enables us to receive the grace \_\_\_\_\_ in the gospel by \_\_\_\_\_.

“That the sole agent in this effectual calling is the Holy Spirit; that he uses the Gospel truth as his instrument; and that, while all sinners are active in resisting the common influences of grace before regeneration, and all believers in co-operating with sanctifying grace after regeneration ...” **A.A. Hodge**<sup>138</sup>

“The only way you can have any affection for Christ is if the Holy Spirit has changed the disposition of your heart and given to you an affection for the One whom you formerly despised. That is where Reformed Theology can be very comforting in giving us assurance.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>139</sup>

Regeneration is an instantaneous, supernatural and radical change in the sinner.<sup>140</sup>

3. Elect infants, dying in infancy, are regenerated, and saved by Christ, through the Spirit, who works when, and where, and how he pleases: so also are all other elect persons who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word.

- The Confession is both \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ at the same time with “elect infants.”
- Not all infants \_\_\_\_\_. We don't know who the \_\_\_\_\_ ones are.
- Infants are not \_\_\_\_\_ or righteous. Christ must \_\_\_\_\_ them!
- God is still working out the doctrine of election but not in the \_\_\_\_\_ way.
- He still \_\_\_\_\_ them, & they are still saved by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- While we recognize God's ordinary \_\_\_\_\_ in ordinary \_\_\_\_\_, we can't limit Him.
- The Spirit is free to work \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ & how His pleases to glorify Himself.
- There are no innocent \_\_\_\_\_, and God will bring the gospel to the \_\_\_\_\_.

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<sup>138</sup> Hodge, pp. 170.

<sup>139</sup> Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 21.

<sup>140</sup> Hoekema, Anthony. *Saved By Grace*. Grand Rapids, Eerdmans. 1989, pp. 102-3,

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- God can work \_\_\_\_\_ in those who incapable of \_\_\_\_\_ faith.
- The Scriptures are written for \_\_\_\_\_ people who think, believe and express it.
- IOW: Ordinary means for elect people in ordinary \_\_\_\_\_.
- There are extraordinary circumstances where God utilizes His \_\_\_\_\_.

“If God could create Adam holy without means ... he can certainly make infants and others regenerate without means.” **A.A. Hodge**<sup>141</sup>

“Our obligation, as the church, is to be actively engaged in missionary outreach.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>142</sup>

4. Others, not elected, although they may be called by the ministry of the Word, and may have some common operations of the Spirit, yet they never truly come unto Christ, and therefore cannot be saved: much less can men, not professing the Christian religion, be saved in any other way whatsoever, be they never so diligent to frame their lives according to the light of nature, and the laws of that religion they do profess. And, to assert and maintain that they may, is very pernicious, and to be detested.

- Many hear the \_\_\_\_\_ call of the gospel in church or through a friend or neighbor.
- They even seem to respond & look like a Christian: \_\_\_\_\_ operations, not saving.
- But they are not in \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore are not \_\_\_\_\_.
- We deny that well \_\_\_\_\_ people of other faiths are saved.

“We are given the commission, as the people of God, as a church, as a ministry, to proclaim the gospel to every living creature, to the whole world. We know that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But not everyone who hears the gospel outwardly responds to it.”

**R.C. Sproul**<sup>143</sup>

WLC Q. 66. What is that union which the elect have with Christ?

A. The union which the elect have with Christ is the work of God’s grace, whereby they are spiritually and mystically, yet really and inseparably, joined to Christ as their head and husband; which is done in their effectual calling.

WLC Q. 69. What is the communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?

A The communion in grace which members of the invisible church have with Christ, is their partaking of the virtue of his mediation, in their justification, adoption, sanctification, and whatever else, in this life, manifests their union with him.

- The Larger Catechism adds \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our union with Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ in effectual calling/regeneration, not by faith.

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<sup>141</sup> Hodge, pp. 174.

<sup>142</sup> Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 27.

<sup>143</sup> Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 16.

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- We are \_\_\_\_\_ and yet really united to Christ as our head and husband.
- This union is \_\_\_\_\_ and the basis upon which we receive all blessings.
- We receive the benefits of blessings of union by \_\_\_\_\_ .
- Jesus has all these blessings in \_\_\_\_\_, and we appropriate them by \_\_\_\_\_.

“First, we must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us.” **John Calvin**<sup>144</sup>

“A more complete definition of effectual calling, therefore, might be: that sovereign action of God through his Holy Spirit whereby he enables the hearer of the gospel call to respond to his summons with repentance, faith, and obedience.” Anthony Hoekema<sup>145</sup>

How does this doctrine help you to glorify and enjoy God?

Conclusion:

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<sup>144</sup> Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christians Religion*. Philadelphia, Westminster Press. III, I. 1.

<sup>145</sup> Hoekema, pp. 86.