

REDEMPTION ACCOMPLISHED & APPLIED
Sandy Springs OPC adult Sunday school class • March 2, 2025

LAST LESSON: From Accomplished to Applied

The salvation earned by Christ is applied to us in steps which have a fixed sequence and logical connections. This sequence (the “ordo salutis”) is the same for everybody, and determined by Scripture not experience. The theological concepts within the ordo salutis will not correspond precisely to biblical terminology.

THIS LESSON: Effectual Calling

I. Meaning of effectual calling

- A. summons carrying divine authority and irresistible power to implement itself (John 6:44)
- B. biblical illustrations of God’s sovereign, life-giving summons
 - 1. creation (Psalm 33:6-9; Romans 4:17)
 - 2. resurrection (Ezekiel 37:1-10; John 11:43-44)
- C. be aware: our doctrinal standards combine “effectual calling” with “regeneration”

Westminster Larger Catechism 67: What is effectual calling?

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 doth, in his accepted time, invite and draw them to Jesus Christ, 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.

II. Author of effectual calling

- A. God—in his sovereign initiative (Romans 8:28-30)...not us or any mere man
 - Westminster Confession of Faith 10.2*
 - 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.*
- B. God—from his eternal purpose (Romans 9:22-24; 2 Timothy 1:8-9)...not ad hoc
- C. specifically: the Father calls us, TO the Son, BY the Spirit (1 Corinthians 1:9; Ephesians 1:17-18)

III. Subject of effectual calling

- A. called to eternal life (1 Timothy 6:12)
- B. called to the peace of Christ (Colossians 3:15)
- C. called to the hope of our inheritance (Ephesians 1:18)
- D. called to God’s kingdom and glory (1 Thessalonians 2:12; 1 Peter 5:10)
- E. called to the status of saints (Romans 1:7)
- F. called to practical holiness (1 Thessalonians 4:7)
- G. called to spiritual light (1 Peter 2:9)
- H. called to freedom (Galatians 5:13)
- I. called to endurance (1 Peter 2:20-21)
- J. fundamentally, called to Christ himself

IV. Distinguishing effectual from external calling

- A. terms: external/outward/general/universal/gospel call, versus internal/effectual call
- B. effect: external call always has an effect (see Isaiah 55:11) but it's not always conversion
- C. recipients of each

1. all sinners can be externally called: an unrestricted, free, sincere, gospel invitation
2. only the elect are effectually called: a subset (Wedding Feast Parable, Matthew 22:14)

Westminster Larger Catechism 68: Are the elect only effectually called?

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 to them, being justly left in their unbelief, do never truly come to Jesus Christ.

- D. external calling is important to effectual calling

1. effectual calling and its results are *preceded* by the external call (Romans 10:14)
2. effectual calling *operates through* the external call (2 Thessalonians 2:14; Acts 16:4)
3. note WCF 10.3-4 exceptions (“elect infants, dying in infancy” and “others incapable”)

- E. ingredients of a full, proper, external call

1. INFORMATION about salvation (sin and its consequences; Christ and his work)
2. INVITATION to respond personally with faith & repentance (Matthew 11:28; Isaiah 55:1)
3. PROMISE of righteousness and life (Acts 3:19; John 3:16; John 6:37)

V. Some implications of the doctrine of effectual calling

- A. for our worship: matter for praise; attitude of humility and gratitude
- B. for our evangelism: dependent prayer; freedom from burdens; expectation of wonders
- C. for our Christian lives: assurance (Romans 8:28); obedience motivation (Ephesians 4:1)

NEXT LESSON: Regeneration (please read RAA chapter II.3, plus WLC 67-68 again)

DATE	RAA	LESSON	HOMEWORK AFTER CLASS (for next week)
5-Jan-25		introduction	read RAA Foreword, Preface, I.1 and Heidelberg Catechism 12-15*
12-Jan-25		weather cancellation	
19-Jan-25	I.1	necessity of the atonement	read RAA I.2
26-Jan-25	I.2	nature of the atonement	read RAA I.3
2-Feb-25			
9-Feb-25	I.3	perfection of the atonement	read RAA I.4
16-Feb-25	I.4	extent of the atonement	read RAA I.5 and II.1
23-Feb-25	I.5-II.1	order of salvation	read RAA II.2 and Larger Catechism 67-68*
2-Mar-25	II.2	effectual calling	read RAA II.3 and Larger Catechism 67-68*
9-Mar-25	II.3	regeneration	read RAA II.4
16-Mar-25	pastor away		
23-Mar-25	pastor away		
30-Mar-25	II.4a	faith	
6-Apr-25	II.4b	repentance	read RAA II.5 and Shorter Catechism 33
13-Apr-25	II.5	justification	read RAA II.6 and Larger Catechism 74*
20-Apr-25	II.6	adoption	read RAA II.7 and Shorter Catechism 35
27-Apr-25	II.7	sanctification	read RAA II.8 and Larger Catechism 79*
4-May-25	II.8	perseverance	read RAA II.9 and Larger Catechism 66*
11-May-25	II.9	union with Christ	read RAA II.10 and Shorter Catechism 37-38
18-May-25	II.10	glorification	read Collected Works pp. 264-274*
25-May-25	holiday break		
1-Jun-25		assurance	