

Ladies Bible Study
All Things for Good
Chapter Seven
Lesson Ten

Introduction:

1. “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).
 - a. Who is it who loves God?
 - b. What are the two types of calling? How do they differ and how are they similar? What Scripture passages can be used to defend this distinction?

Effectual calling defined:

1. WSC 31: What is effectual calling? 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.”
 - a. “Effectual calling in the work of God’s Spirit...” (John 15:5)
 - i. The direction of this call is from God → man. No man can call Himself to God. This is called monergism. The Holy Spirit unites us to Christ apart from any cooperation with our unregenerate nature. In other words, when we were dead spiritually the Spirit comes and makes us alive.
 - b. “Convincing us of our sin and misery...” (Acts 26:18; Eph. 1:17-18).
 - i. One must be convinced they are a sinner.
 - c. “enlightening our eyes in the knowledge of Christ” (Acts 2, 16).
 - i. One must be convinced Christ is the Savior.
 - c. “And renewing our wills” (Titus 3:5).
 - i. Because of the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit you now will to come to Christ.
 - d. “He doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ....”

- i. A person embraces Christ because he or she is persuaded and enabled by the Holy Spirit.
- e. “Freely offered in the gospel.”
 - i. This qualifies who the Christ is that you embrace. He is not the Christ of your imagination. He is the Christ of the Bible.

Our condition before effectual calling:

1. Ephesians 2:1-3
 - a. What is our root problem?
 - i. We don’t want to deal just with symptoms we need to get at the root problem.
 - b. Paul says, “you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked...” How can Paul say we were dead? In what sense were we dead?
 - c. Can someone be only partially dead?
 - d. Outside of Jesus are we kind of alive doing sort of good things?
 - Rom. 3:10-18.
 - Rom. 8:7-8.
 - 1 Cor. 2:14
 - Ps. 51:5.
 - e. With whom do you ordinarily go on walks?
 - f. Our former walking buddies:
 - i. Mr. world
 - ii. Mr. Demonic
 - iii. Mr. Self
 - iv. Mr. Nature

The means of effectual calling:

1. The Spirit works through the word (Acts 10:44).
 - a. The Spirit is the efficient cause and the word is the instrumental cause. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Cor. 3:6).

The methods God uses in calling sinners

1. Does everyone have the exact same testimony about the particular details surrounding how God saved them?
2. Who has a more supernatural conversion, a child who grew up in the church always believing in Jesus Christ, or Paul the Apostle?

The purpose of this effectual calling

1. It is sweet – 114.
 - a. God does not force us, He draws us. WCF 10.1-2.
2. It is a changing call
 - a. Why don't all people come to Christ? Because they need to have their natures changed.
3. It is holy – 115.
 - a. Romans 8:29, Eph. 1:3-4, 1 Cor. 1:2, 1 Pet. 1:15-16.
4. Irresistible call – 115.
 - a. Those whom He calls effectually will come certainly.
5. It is a gracious call – 116.
 - a. Matt. 11:25-26, 1 Cor. 1:26-31
 - b. Perhaps the greatest Puritan theologian and contemporary of Bunyan, **John Owen**, when asked by King Charles why he, a great scholar, went to hear an uneducated tinker preach said, "I would willingly exchange my learning for the tinker's power of touching men's hearts."

The end of our effectual calling is the honor of God

1. Eph. 1:12, 1 Pet. 3:18

An exhortation to make your calling sure

1. 2 Peter 2:10; Col. 1:13-14. He calls us out of self-righteousness Phil. 3:9. He calls us to change Acts 9:21, 1 Cor. 6:9-11. There is a change in the whole man 1 Pet. 1:13-16