

Theology Simply Explained — WSC31 “The Call That Awakens Our Soul to Faith in Christ”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 31—especially explaining **what the Spirit must do (and does) to bring the elect into Christ by Faith.**

Q31. 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.***

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

The shorter catechism lesson this week is, Question. 31, what is effectual calling? The answer is 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.

So, one of the reasons that Salvation is only by God's initiation and by God. Sovereign Grace to us that we are totally depraved. We are freely offered. To believe everyone. Without distinction is offered to the Lord Jesus Christ, and that's what we call the free offer of the Gospel.

And that's what that phrase. At the end of the answer freely offered to us. In the gospel means, But although the gospel is freely offered to us, we are not free to believe because we are in bondage. We're in the bondage of self-delusion and darkness. In which we do not see ourselves as sinful.

and the corruption of our nature. We view all things as Obligated to serve us. We think that all things ought to serve us. We call evil good and good evil. so we are morally. Corrupted in a way. That doesn't allow us. To see that we are sinful and doesn't allow us to see that our great misery is in the non-enjoyment of God and non-submission to God.

We are made miserable by many things, but we think that the misery is that those things don't serve us. And so, We need the work of the Holy Spirit just to convince us of our sin and misery. Another problem that we have is What's called the noetic effects of sin.

Not related to the word Noah NOA n-o-a-h, but related to the Greek word noose or mind nous. Well, actually, it's Greek letters but that's this. English transliteration. Where our minds? Do not understand rightly in the language of second Corinthians 3 and 4. There is a veil over. Our minds so that even if we hear the teaching of the scripture in that context, the Apostle is talking about.

The Jews. hearing Moses in the synagogues and I think not even just the Jews but Moses was preached in the synagogues throughout the Roman world. But when people would hear the scripture preached in the synagogues, they would not be able to see that it is especially about the Lord Jesus Christ.

From Genesis to Malachi, it's about the Lord Jesus Christ. but there would be a veil over their minds. The Apostle said, And that is the noetic effects of sin. That is The thought corrupting. blinding. Effects of sin, and A solution for a mind that has darkened and blinded by sin, which is like a veil over.

over the mind is for God, the Holy Spirit to take away. That Veil to take away that Darkness to take away that blindness. We need our minds enlightened. So as the Holy Spirit brings us to Faith, he needs to convince us of our sin and misery. Convince us that we are sinful.

God is God. And we are not and convince us that our misery is in being set over against him. In being those who are sinners against him. Under his wrath and curse. And then we need our minds enlightened, we need light given to our minds, the, the Veil of those noetic effects of sin.

Removed from us so that the light of the knowledge of the glory of God can shine in our hearts in the face of Jesus Christ. And so, that phrase enlightening, our minds, in the knowledge of Christ. as I think, especially taken from second Corinthians 4, although there may be other passages that they had in mind when they put that in there.

And then the last thing we need is Not just to understand. with our minds to perceive with our minds, that God is offering himself to us in Christ. He's offering his righteousness to be our righteousness in Christ, he's offering. Christ himself him himself to be our atonement in Christ to take away the Wrath that we deserve to take away the penalty.

That must come upon us if we are not atoned for if we have not been at owned for, but we also need our Wills renewed. Not just to recognize what is true and right. But to desire. What is true and right? Because the one who has sinned an atom and died in Adam dead in trespasses and sins, it means his thoughts are dead.

It means his affections are dead. They respond wrongly. And it means his will is dead. He desires the wrong things from. It has totally depraved his sinful. Dead in sin, estate in Adam. And so in order to believe in the Lord, Jesus receive. the Lord Jesus Embrace wonderful word here for receiving and believing Embrace.

the Lord Jesus, we need our Wills renewed. And so when the spirit persuades us to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ, he also has to enable us. and so there's the persuading that works on the mind and there's the enabling that works on the will and that is how the spirit Brings us to believe into Christ to be United to Christ.

And so there is more than that general call that outward call of the Gospel that is freely. Offered to all men. We also need that inward call by the spirit that effectual call that overcomes and corrects. All of these, otherwise insurmountable obstacles to So, 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. I think I should mention also that that last phrase.

Is against those who say that Jesus Christ isn't genuinely, offered. If election is true, if effectual calling is necessary, Jesus Christ isn't genuinely offered to others. No, he is genuinely offered. They're just genuinely unpersuaded and genuinely unable, and that is their fault. So effectual calling is a gracious.

Work of God's spirit. He's overcoming. What is Our fault. And then, this is also over against those hypercalvinists, who say, you should only preach the gospel to

the elect, which, of course is utter nonsense. Because you don't know who the elect are until they believe. but there are people who are called hypercalvinists that say, you should only preach the gospel to the elect and you look at scripture and Jesus himself and his Apostles who were said and everything in the Bible says no, the gospel is to be freely.

Offered to all. Not just to the elect. so those are the reasons for that last phrase there freely offered to us. In the gospel.