

Emmaus Essentials
The London Baptist Confession of 1689
Chapter 10 - Of Effectual Calling
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Chapter Outline

Taken from ST 535 Baptist Symbolics Chapter Outlines by Dr. Renihan

Introduction

Of Free Will

T.U.L.I.P. - Doctrine of salvation

Irresistible Grace - An unfortunate term

The question - How does God bring the elect to salvation in time?

I. Paragraph 1- Effectual Calling Defined

1. _____ Those whom God hath predestinated unto life, 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.

(Romans 8:30; Romans 11:7; Ephesians 1:10, 11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 14; Ephesians 2:1-6; Acts 26:18; Ephesians 1:17, 18; Ezekiel 36:26; Deuteronomy 30:6; Ezekiel 36:27; Ephesians 1:19; Psalm 110:3; Song of Solomon 1:4)

- A. Those predestined
- B. In his appended and accepted time
- C. Effectually to call
 - 1. Effectual = effective - God accomplishes what he sets out to do.
 - a) "And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified." (Romans 8:30, ESV)
 - b) "What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened," (Romans 11:7, ESV)
- D. Out of that state of sin and death which they are by nature (fallen nature)
 - 1. Think chapter 9 - the four states of man
- E. To grace and salvation by Jesus Christ
- F. How?
 - 1. The Mind
 - a) "Enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God"
 - (1) The mind of man is not in state of moral equilibrium
 - (a) Paul tells of his conversion - "But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you **to open their eyes**, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." (Acts 26:16–18, ESV)
 - 2. The Heart
 - a) "Taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them a heart of flesh"
 - (1) Use of symbolic terms to describe the impartation of life

- (a) "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints," (Ephesians 1:17-18, ESV)
 - (b) "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." (Ezekiel 36:26, ESV)
 - (c) "And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live." (Deuteronomy 30:6, ESV)
3. The Will
- a) "Renewing their wills, and by his almighty power determining them to that which is good"
 - (1) Remember chapter 9
 - (2) "for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13, ESV)
4. In this way the the elect sinner is "effectually drawn" to Christ
5. Yet we come freely
- a) Freely, being made willing by his grace
 - b) We do not come to Christ *kicking and screaming*, but freely.
 - (1) Some oppose this doctrine by saying, "God is a gentleman, he does not force himself on anyone..."
 - (a) This implies that the doctrine teaches that God drags us to Christ.
 - (b) No. God effectually woos us to himself so that we come willingly.
 - (c) He is a gentlemen! He is just really good at wooing sinners to himself; he never fails! :D

II. Paragraph 2 - The Source of the Call

2. _____ *This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man, nor from any power or agency in the creature, being wholly passive therein, being dead in sins and trespasses, 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, and that by no less power than that which raised up Christ from the dead.*
 (2 Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:5; John 5:25; Ephesians 1:19, 20)

- A. from God Alone - God is the one who is free!
 - 1. This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone
- B. Not Based Upon Foreknowledge
 - 1. "Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began," (2 Timothy 1:8-9, ESV)
 - 2. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God," (Ephesians 2:8, ESV)
 - 3. "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Corinthians 2:14, ESV)
- C. Not From any Power or Agency in the Creature
 - 1. Man is wholly passive in this
 - a) It is not that we are wholly passive in all aspects of salvation - we repent, for example. But in regard to effectual calling, we are passive.

D. An Activity of the Spirit

1. "...until being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit..."

E. Like Resurrection Power

1. "... he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it, and that by no less power than that which raised up Christ from the dead."
 - (1) "even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—" (Ephesians 2:5, ESV)
 - (2) "and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places," (Ephesians 1:19–20, ESV)
 - (3) Lazarus - John 11

III. Paragraph 3 - The Status of Elect Infants and Others who Cannot Believe

3. *_____ Elect infants dying in infancy are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit; who worketh when, and where, and how he pleases; so also are all elect persons, who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word.*
(John 3:3, 5, 6; John 3:8)

A. What about infants who die in infancy?

1. A huge question, especially in the 17th century.

B. What about elect persons, who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word.

C. "... saved by Christ through the Spirit; who worketh when, and where, and how he pleases..."

1. "Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."" (John 3:3, ESV)
2. "Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (John 3:5, ESV)
3. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:6, ESV)
4. "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."" (John 3:8, ESV)

D. How would I counsel one who lost an infant?

E. Why doesn't the word speak to this issue clearly?

1. The unborn?
2. Age of accountability?

IV. Paragraph 4 - The Status of the Non-elect

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 not being effectually drawn by the Father, they neither will nor can truly come to Christ, and therefore cannot be saved: much less can men that receive not the Christian religion be saved; be they never so diligent to frame their lives according to the light of nature and the law of that religion they do profess.*
(Matthew 22:14; Matthew 13:20, 21; Hebrews 6:4, 5; John 6:44, 45, 65; 1 John 2:24, 25; Acts 4:12; John 4:22; John 17:3)

A. Not able to come to salvation by the gospel call alone

1. Called by the ministry of the Word
 - a) "For many are called, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14, ESV)
2. Common operations of the Spirit

- a) "For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt." (Hebrews 6:4–6, ESV)
3. Ineffective if not effectually drawn by the Father
 - a) "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day." (John 6:44, ESV)
- B. Not able to come to salvation by the framing their life by the light of nature or the law of the religion they profess
 1. "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12, ESV)
 2. "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6, ESV)

Conclusion

Does this not describe your conversion experience?

Let us be careful when giving our testimony that we tell the truth!