

EFFECTUAL CALLING

Ezekiel 34:11-31

WHY DO SOME PEOPLE ACCEPT THE GOSPEL, WHILE OTHERS DO NOT?

The reason is not in the Gospel itself

- The same message is preached to all
 - Jesus Christ is freely offered to all sinners in the without exception (Rom 10:13; John 3:16; Rev 22:17)
- There is nothing in the message itself which prevents any person from accepting the offer of salvation contained in it.

The reason does not lie in the nature of the hearers

- All are equally sinful (Isa 54:6) and dead spiritually (Eph 2:1),
- All are equally unable to grasp spiritual things 1 Cor 1:23; 2:14) and equally determined not to come to Christ (John 5:40)

The reason is that some are effectually called, others are not

John 3:1-8 tells us that a new creation is necessary:

Prevenient: God's work precedes the decisions of man (v3)

Monergistic: It is accomplished solely by the Holy Spirit (not cooperation between man and the Spirit, i.e. synergism) (v6)

Mysterious: It cannot be observed or described (v8)

Sovereign: It takes place when and where he wills

Effectual: It produces the desired result (the person concerned does come to see and enter the Kingdom)

AN OBJECTION TO EFFECTUAL CALLING

This makes men and women into mere pawns!

- No-one is forced to come against their will. Natural man does not want the Gospel. Effectually called people do! (1 Cor 1:18)
- Effectual calling is not an act of *coercion*, but an act of *creation* (2 Cor 5:17; Eph 2:10).
- A new nature is given and the will now chooses new things.

Therefore,

The effectually called person wants to do what he did not want to do before.

An effectually called person now:

- Sees the Gospel as true, as a blind man now sees the sun (1 Cor 4:4-6; 2 Thes 2:13-14)
- Sees his unworthiness and guilt before God (Acts 2:37)
- Sees the Saviour as Substitute and Mediator (John 6:44)
- Wants the Saviour, not his sin, so turns from it to Him (Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26-27)
- Trusts what the Saviour has done for sinners and relies on this and nothing else for his standing before God (Acts 17:30; 16:31)

What does this moment of creation look like?
