

*Redemption  
Accomplished  
and Applied*

*by John Murray*

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Tenth Lecture

Presented by Dr. Richard Spencer

# Review

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- We finished Redemption Accomplished
- We started Redemption Applied and covered the order of the events in the application of redemption:
  1. Effectual calling
  2. Regeneration
  3. Faith and Repentance
  4. Justification
  5. Adoption
  6. Sanctification
  7. Perseverance
  8. Union with Christ
  9. Glorification

# Reveiw

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- We started effectual calling and distinguished it from the general call of the gospel
- The Westminster Shorter Catechism expresses it in the following way:

Q. 31. What is effectual calling?

A. 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 does persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

# *Westminster Shorter Catechism*

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- The WSC answer does conflate calling, regeneration, faith and repentance
- To be saved, we must:
  - Be convinced of our estate of sin and misery
  - Be enlightened about the work of Christ and the offer of salvation (the gospel call)
  - Be regenerated to enable us to respond to the gospel call in faith and repentance (i.e., to embrace Jesus Christ)
  - Personally exercise faith and repentance
- Also, the call is the work of the Father

# Calling – Regeneration – Faith & Repentance

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- The confusion in trying to separate calling, regeneration, and faith and repentance, arises, in part, because

*Regeneration takes place in connection with the effectual call; it pushes itself into consciousness in the responses of faith and repentance. It has no relevance except as it is concomitant with these other aspects of the ordo salutis.*

The Collected Writings of John Murray, vol 2, pg 197

# The Effectual Call

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- Consider what the apostle Peter wrote,  
*Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.* 2 Pet 1:10
- Calling and election are spoken of together because Peter is speaking of the effectual call; it would make no sense to tell them to be sure that they had heard the gospel
- You can tell by your life because the call is effectual and brings about change

# *The Effectual Call*

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- Murray discusses this call under four headings:
  - The author
  - The nature
  - The pattern
  - The priority

# The Author

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- God is the author of the effectual call:

*God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.* 1 Cor 1:9

*join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.*

2 Tim 1:8-9



# The Author

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- Murray notes:

*calling is an act of God's grace and power just as regeneration, justification, and adoption are. We do not call ourselves ... Calling is an act of God and of God alone.*

RA&A, pg 89

- Murray obviously does not deny that God uses human agents in the call, but only God can make the call effectual

# The Author

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- Murray further points out that

*It is God the Father who is the specific agent in the effectual call.* RA&A, pg 89

- The Bible confirms this view:

*For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, ... And those he predestined, he also called* Rom 8:29-30

*God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.* 1 Cor 1:9

# The Author

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- Murray also adduces 1 John 3:1,  
*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us,  
that we should be called children of God!*
- And notes that  
*It is very likely that the word “called” means more  
than merely “named” and refers to the effectual  
action of God the Father whereby we are “called”  
to be sons of God.*
- This also reminds us that in Chapter 1 of Part I, he noted that the source of the atonement is the free & sovereign love of God

# The Nature

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- Murray makes four points with respect to the nature of the effectual call of God
  - It is not just an invitation, it is a summons
  - It is immutable; perseverance *will* follow
  - It is a high, holy, and heavenly calling
  - It does not destroy, but rather grounds and confirms human responsibility

# God's Summons

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- Unlike a summons from a human court, it is invested with the power and grace to make it efficacious – you cannot refuse God's summons

*God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.* Rom 11:29

*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish ... so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.* Is 55:10-11

# *The Call Guarantees Perseverance*

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- God's call is also immutable in the sense that it will issue forth in persevering faith

*who have been called according to his purpose*

Rom 8:28

*those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

Rom 8:30

Paul was; *confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Phil 1:6

# *A High, Holy, and Heavenly Calling*

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- Note what the Scriptures have to say about this calling:

*I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

Phil 3:14

*join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life*

2 Tim 1:8-9

*Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.*

Heb 3:1

# *A High, Holy, and Heavenly Calling*

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*It is high, holy, and heavenly in its origin and in its destiny. But it is probably the character of the calling that is particularly stressed. The life into which the people of God are ushered is one that separates them from the fellowship of this present evil world and imparts to them a character consonant with that consecration. If we find ourselves at home in the ungodliness, lust, and filth of this present world, it is because we have not been called effectually by God's grace.*

RA&A, pp 91-92



# *What Does the Bible Say?*

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- That we are called to a life of separation is clear in the Scriptures, as Paul wrote

*what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ... come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.*

2 Cor 6:14-17

# *The Calling and Human Responsibility*

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- Murray also notes that

*The sovereignty and efficacy of the call do not relax human responsibility but rather ground and confirm that responsibility. The magnitude of the grace enhances the obligation.* RA&A, pg 92

- Paul also speaks of the obligation we have because of the grace given to us, we are to put it to use!

*As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.* 2 Cor 6:1

# *The Calling and Human Responsibility*

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- As Paul wrote to the church in Philippi,

*Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

Philippians 2:12-13

- We are commanded to “work out” even though it is God who “works in” – there is a mystery here, but no contradiction

# *The Calling and Human Responsibility*

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- As Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus,

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV)

- Paul's exhortation to live a life worthy of the calling logically follows from God's having regenerated us; he then calls us to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to manifest the new life that has been given to us

# *The Calling and Human Responsibility*

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- John Murray wrote elsewhere,

*The sovereign working of God, instead of making our activity superfluous, or discouraging unceasing effort on our part, is the very urge to it and dynamic in it. The more convinced we are of our dependence upon God and the of his efficacious working in us, the more diligent we are in the use of those means and the exercise of those graces of which he is the author.*

The Collected Writings of John Murray, vol 2, pp 190-191

# *The Calling and Human Responsibility*

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- Don't get lost trying to reconcile divine sovereignty and human responsibility – simply believe and obey the Word of God!

*As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.*

Ecclesiastes 11:5

*if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Romans 10:9

*[God] commands all people everywhere to repent.*

Acts 17:30

# The Pattern

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- God operates according to a plan, or pattern; so what was his pattern for redemption?

*[God] has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus*

2 Tim 1:9-10

*he [The Father] chose us in him [Jesus Christ] before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*

Eph 1:4

# The Pattern

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- Murray notes the following about this pattern:
  - It has a determinate purpose. It is not haphazard or arbitrary.
  - It is eternal. We cannot truly grasp this, but must do our best to understand and so increase our appreciation of the marvel of God's eternal plan
  - It is *in Christ* the pattern is devised – while the Father is the one calling, we must never forget that we, as his people, were *eternally contemplated as being in Christ*



# The Priority

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- Murray has four reasons for putting calling before regeneration:
  1. *It is calling that is represented in Scripture as that act of God by which we are actually united to Christ ... Regeneration is the beginning of inwardly operative saving grace.* RA&A, pg 93
- *God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.* 1 Cor 1:9
- Our union with Christ begins with our regeneration

# The Priority

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- Murray has four reasons for putting calling before regeneration:
  2. *Calling is a sovereign act of God alone and we must not define it in terms of the response which is elicited in the heart and mind and will of the person called. When this is taken into account, it is more reasonable to construe regeneration as that which is wrought inwardly by God's grace in order that we may yield to God's call the appropriate and necessary response.*

RA&A, pp 93-94

# The Priority

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- Murray has four reasons for putting calling before regeneration:
  3. We looked at Romans 8:28-30 last time and decided that it indicated order; therefore, it seems to indicate that calling comes first in the application of redemption

*And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

Romans 8:30

# The Priority

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- Murray has four reasons for putting calling before regeneration:
  4. Since particular emphasis is placed on calling, rather than regeneration in Romans 8:30 and 2 Timothy 1:9, it seems proper to infer that it is the initial act in the application of redemption

*And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

Romans 8:30

[God] *has saved us and called us to a holy life*

2 Tim 1:9

# Chapter 3: Regeneration

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- We are now ready to address a major controversy in the modern church:
  - Does regeneration, or new birth, precede faith?
  - Or is regeneration God's response to our faith?
- This is of major theological importance, especially in terms of how we evangelize
- We will repeat some of what we covered in connection with the extent of the atonement

Effectual calling  
Regeneration  
Faith & Repentance  
Justification  
Adoption  
Sanctification  
Perseverance  
Union with Christ  
Glorification

# *To Prepare for Next Session*

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- You should review Chapter 3 and read Chapter 4 of Part II, Redemption Applied

# Application

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- We should take great comfort in the fact that our salvation is secure in the hands of God:  
*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*  
Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV)
- Also, knowing that God must work to effectually call anyone means we must pray for our witness to be effective – what a privilege that God allows us to participate!