

Thank God for the crucial role of Jesus to safely link us to God.

1 Timothy 2:5, “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given at the proper time.”

8.1 We thank God that we are well represented in His Son Jesus Christ.

For us, He is The Last Adam. 1 Corinthians 15:45. Romans 5:12,14

For us, He is Prophet, Priest, and King Acts 3:22, Hebrews 5:5, 1 Timothy 6:15

For us, He is The Head of the Church. Colossians 1:18

For us, He is The Judge of the World. Acts 17:31

8.2 We appreciate the importance of every aspect of Jesus the Mediator.

Jesus is fully God. Colossians 2:9

Eternal. John 17:5,24

All-Powerful. Matthew 8:27 All-Knowing. Luke 6:8

Fathered by the Spirit. Luke 1:35

Jesus is fully human. John 1:14

Began in time. Galatians 4:4

Born by human generation from Mary’s substance. Luke 1:35.

Subject to limitations of as a human. Hebrews 2:17

Jesus, having two natures as God and man, is still ONE Person – Acts 10:38; 20:28

8.3 We are amazed at the ‘equipment’ given to Jesus to fulfill the job of Mediator.

Jesus was given the status of The God-Man. Luke 4:18

Jesus was given the anointing of The Spirit, beyond measurement. John 3:34.

8.4 We admire Jesus for His willingness to be both humiliated and exalted as Mediator.

Jesus was willing. Psalm 40:8 Philippians 2:8 Hebrews 2:12-17

8.5 We rest because Jesus actually accomplished the work of Mediator, once for all.

Jesus made satisfaction for the Father’s justice on our behalf. Hebrews 10:14

8.6 We learn about Christ’s trustworthiness by the OT benefits through types and signs.

It is just like our Jesus, to be the only Savior of all believers, ever. Hebrews 13:8

8.7 We are thankful that Jesus mediated, for only He could do it.

Jesus was uniquely able to cleanse our sins. Hebrews 1:3.

8.8 We count it precious that Jesus even now fulfills the office of Mediator for us.

How comforting that Jesus now prays for us! 1 John 2:1 Romans 8:34 Hebrews 7:25.

Application:

What did you learn today, that you did not know?

To you, what is one of the most meaningful aspects of Jesus’ role as mediator?

Christ Enabled Me to Choose The Good! WCF Ch. 9 Of Free Will

[Falls Church – An OPC Family Watch Your Life and Doctrine Course 2020]

We admit the bad condition of our sinful nature, and the gift of a new will.

THE MAIN VERSE: Philippians 2:12-13, “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.”

9.1 We acknowledge that we do actually have free will.

We have complete liberty - to do what we wish.

However, we have total inability – cannot do what is good.

So, we end up doing bad, because we choose to!

James 1:13-14; 4:7; Deut. 30:19; Isa. 7:11-12; Matt. 17:12; John 5:40

9.2 We understand that in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were able to do good or evil.

With the entrance of sin, we did not lose the liberty to do good; instead, we lost the ability to do good. Eccl. 7:29; Gen. 1:26, 31; Col. 3:10 Gen. 2:16-17; 3:6, 17

9.3 We understand that the unconverted are not able to choose the good, yet have liberty.

Man is not able to save himself or prepare himself to be saved. The fall affects the whole of man, and leads to total perversity of his being. Rom. 5:5; 8:7-8; John 6:44, 65; 15:5 Rom. 3:9-10, 12, 23 Eph. 2:1, 5; Col 2:13 John 3:3, 5-6; 6:44, 65; I Cor. 2:14; Titus 3:3-5

9.4 We believe that as Christians, we are enabled to choose the good, but we still choose bad sometimes.

The free will always had natural liberty, but used that liberty to turn against God; for a Christian, that natural liberty, now cleansed by the Holy Spirit because of the work of Christ, is able to will the things that are pleasing to God. But because of the nature of regeneration, which runs throughout the whole man, but is not as strong as it could be, there are still things we do wrong. Col. 1:13; John 8:34, 36; Rom. 6:6-7 Phil. 2:13;

We live between the already and the not yet, and so our wills have the general disposition to will the things that are pleasing to God, but still do desire things that are wrong. Rom. 6:14, 17-19, 22 Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:14-25; I John 1:8, 10

9.5 We know that it is not until we get to heaven that we will only be able to do good.

When total depravity is undone in us, and replaced by total glory, then we have the immutable freedom to do good alone. Heb. 12:23; I John 3:2; Jude 1:24; Rev. 21:27

What about my own walk with God?

How often do you come to God in confession, admitting that you are a person capable of choosing to think, do or say bad things, because you wanted to?

Chapter 10. When God Called Me, He Saw To It That I Answered!

[Falls Church – An OPC Family Watch Your Life and Doctrine Course 2020]

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter Ten, Of Effectual Calling

Without God's call to us, we would have remained in our dreadful condition.

Romans 8:28,30, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose... And those He predestined, He also called; those He called; He also justified, those He justified, He also glorified."

10.1 While it is true that we wanted to come to Christ when we did, we acknowledge our dependence on God, for even this desire.

Who saves men? God. Acts 13:48b.

Is God calling everyone to whom the gospel is preached? Yes. Rom. 1:20

Why doesn't everyone respond to the outward call of God, like the reading of the Scriptures? Rm. 11:7 1 Cor. 2:9-10,12,14. 1 Cor. 3:6 1 Thess. 1:5,6,

What is the internal call? God makes us willing to believe. Eph.1:5-6,10-11

10.2 We remain humbled by the truth that we cannot save ourselves, and we cannot even take credit for responding to God's call in our own strength.

Are any saved, who are not elect? No. Can someone be saved without this internal call? No, it is essential. Anything else would be saving yourself. Is man able to answer the general call? Not without God's grace. 1 Cor. 2:14. Did God look into the future and see who would believe, and from that knowledge grant the internal call? No, rather it is by God's grace alone. Romans 8:7.

10.3 Since none of us are able to hear God's call and respond, it is no trouble to think of those people who are not able to physically hear or understand God's preached gospel.

What about those incapable of an outward call? Can they receive an inward call? Yes. Luke 1:15 What about the elect who are so severely mentally impaired, that they cannot understand the basics of the gospel? Saved, by the Spirit. Jn.3:3,5,8.

10.4 Realizing God's power to save people despite inability to understand, we must avoid the tempting logical conclusion - that people could be saved without trusting in Christ!

What about nonelect who respond to the outward call (preaching)? Mt. 13:14-15
How many are called? All. How many are chosen? Few. Matthew 22:14.

How does this get worked out in my own life?

When are you tempted to be proud that you became a Christian?

Where is the comfort for you in the teaching of these verses?