

Intro:

READ WLC Q&A 61.

EP (Main Point of Text): Though the Church is a mixed multitude, God's Word is alive and actively working within it.

HP: *God's Word is effective.*

Move 1: *Some of you will bloom.*

LC: "they only who are true members of the church invisible and hear the gospel are saved":

- Q&A 64 tells us: "The invisible church is the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one under Christ the head." Based on God's eternal COG/call.
- By the Spirit. You can't know others are not, because only God knows heart. *Can* know you: *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:* (Rom 8:16)

Move 2: *Some of you will burn.*

LC: "All that hear the gospel and live in the visible church are not saved":

- READ John 12:38-40(?). Vs. 37: Jesus spoke to those who did not believe w/ many miracles.
- *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.* (Mat 7:21) Why? Many showboat. And
- *... many are called, but few are chosen.* (Mat 22:14). General call/effectual call.
- Romans 9:6b "For they are not all Israel which are of Israel.": Visible/Invisible distinction.
 - Paul's concern is for his own people through whom the Messiah came: vss. 2-5
 - Not all in OT Church true believers, but such bore mark of covenant community.

Move 3: *In every case, God's Word does not come back void.*

LC: "All that hear the gospel, and live in the visible church":

- Here where salvation happens. WCF, VC: out of which there is no ordinary means of salvation. While not all VC are in IC, it is rare that members of IC are not found in VC.
- *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.* (Isa 55:11)
- Romans 9:6a. "take none effect": lit. Gk., "hath fallen away". Not falling on deaf ears, but working its effect in elect/reprobate, as both designed to respond with contact to Gospel air.

Conclusion:

HP: *God's Word is effective.*