

Intro:

Last week, means of grace that effect your salvation. First focus, the WORD. READ WLC Q&A 155.

Main Point of Text: Paul says that the way people are saved is by hearing the public proclamation of God's Word.

Sermon Point: *Listen to your preacher.*

Move 1: *The Spirit of Christ speaks salvation through His Word, especially preached.*

- LC: “The spirit of God maketh the reading ... of the word ... an effectual means”: Psalm 19:7 and Heb. 4:12 are so by the Holy Spirit; Effectual Calling (WLC 67). For elect, Word is Spirit's tool.
 - Acts 16:14: Lord opened Lydia's heart to attend to things spoken by Paul, who spoke by the Spirit.
 - *And my speech and my preaching was ... in demonstration of the Spirit* ...(1 Cor. 2:4).
- LC: “but especially the preaching of the word”:
 - Titus 1:3: *hath ... manifested his word through preaching* ...
 - God uses the foolishness of preaching to save people: 1 Cor. 1:21

Move 2: *The Spirit speaks through His Word to turn you inside out.*

- LC “of enlightening, convincing, and humbling sinners”: Neh. 8:8: *So they [Ezra, priests] read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.* Vs. 9, the people wept. Vs. 10: told to rejoice in the strength of the Lord. They opened up.
- LC: “of driving them out of themselves”:
 - Luke 16:15. Remember, repentance is a “change of mind”.
 - Acts 26:18: Jesus sent Paul, *To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance ...*
 - Acts 2:37, 41: people pricked in their hearts by Peter's preaching asked how to be saved, and gladly responded to his instructions. They had crucified Jesus. Now they cried out to Him.
 - Point of driving out of yourselves: LC “and drawing them unto Christ”:

Move 3: *The Spirit speaks through His Word to make you like Jesus.*

- LC: “of conforming them to his image”: Rom. 8:29a; 2 Cor. 3:18 such by the *Spirit of the Lord*.
- LC: “and subduing them to his will”: preaching's function as God's weapon: *... to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ* ... (2 Cor. 10:4-5)
- LC: “of strengthening them against temptations and corruptions”: *Now all these things happened*

unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. (1 Cor. 10:11)

Move 4: The Spirit speaks through the preaching of the Word to give you Jesus.

- LC: “of building them up in grace”: *And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance ... (Acts 20:32)*
- LC: “and establishing their hearts in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.” *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. (Romans 15:4)*
- LC: “but especially the preaching of the word” Rom. 10:13-17:
 - Concern: how can people be saved? By having faith in Christ. How? By hearing. Hearing what? God’s Good News. How will they hear it? By the preaching of it: “proclamation/announce publicly”
 - Vs. 13 quoting Joel 2:32 (Acts 2:21): ends with ... as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call. General outward call the means of the saving inner call.
 - Vs. 15/16 quoting Isa. 52:7/Isa. 53:1: Suffering Servant saves by transfer. Good News changes bad.
 - The main argument: Vss. 13-14, and 17

Conclusion:

Listen to your preacher.