

The Canons of Dort (1619)

**First Head of Doctrine
(Divine Election and Reprobation)**

LORD'S DAY #3

Article 5

Leader: The cause or guilt of this unbelief as well as of all other sins is no wise in God, but in man himself; whereas faith in Jesus Christ and salvation through Him is the free gift of God, as it is written: *By grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.*¹ Likewise: *To you it hath been granted in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, etc..*²

Article 6

People: **That some receive the gift of faith from God, and others do not receive it, proceeds from God's eternal decree. For known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world. Who worketh all things after the counsel of his will.**³

Leader: According to which decree He graciously softens the hearts of the elect, however obstinate, and inclines them to believe; while He leaves the non-elect in His just judgment to their own wickedness and obduracy. And herein is especially displayed the profound, the merciful, and at the same time the righteous discrimination between men equally involved in ruin; or that decree of election and reprobation, revealed in the Word of God, which, though men of perverse, impure, and unstable minds wrest it to their own destruction, yet to holy and pious souls affords unspeakable consolation.

¹ Eph. 2:8

² Phil. 1:29

³ Acts 15:18, Eph. 1:11