

The Canons of Dort (1619)

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

LORD'S DAY #5

Article 9

Leader: This election was not founded upon foreseen faith and the obedience of faith, holiness, or any other good quality or disposition in man, as the prerequisite, cause, or condition on which it depended; but men are chosen to faith and to the obedience of faith, holiness, etc. Therefore election is the fountain of every saving good, from which proceed faith, holiness, and the other gifts of salvation, and finally eternal life itself, as its fruits and effects, according to the testimony of the apostle:

People: He hath chosen us (*not because we were, but*) that we should be holy, and without blemish before him in love.¹

Article 10

Leader: The good pleasure of God is the sole cause of this gracious election; which does not consist herein that out of all possible qualities and actions of men God has chosen some as a condition of salvation, but that He was pleased out of the common mass of sinners to adopt some certain persons as a peculiar people to Himself, as it is written:

People: For the children being not yet born, neither having done anything good or bad, *etc.*, it was said unto her (*namely, to Rebekah*), The elder shall serve the younger. Even as it is written, Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated. And as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.²

¹ Eph. 1:4

² Rom. 9:11-13, Acts 13:48