

Canons of Dort 1, Art:4-5 – Your Response to Your Election

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The Canons of Dort (1618-1619) is not equal to the Bible, but it is a faithful summary of 5 major doctrines in the Bible: Unconditional Election, Limited (Definite) Atonement, Total Depravity (Inability), Irresistible Grace, and the Perseverance (Preservation) of the Saints. You can remember them by the acronym ULTIP, or the more common TULIP.

Because Jacob Arminius, in the late 1500's, was teaching some serious errors regarding the doctrine of salvation, the Canons of Dort were specifically written to correct those false teachings. Unfortunately, Arminianism, with its errors concerning the salvation, continues today, in kind of a revival, and so we must address them.

The last time you saw **election was based on God's love for his children** and **election was worked through the Word of God**. In other words, a loving God sent his Word, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so his elect children might hear of salvation and receive it.

Today we will pick up with **how man responds when he hears that Word of God preached**.

Our headings are:

The Elect respond to the Gospel he hears

The Elect respond by Mixing the Gospel with Faith

Article 4: A Twofold Response to the Gospel: God's wrath remains on those who do not believe this gospel. But **those who do accept it and embrace Jesus the Savior with a true and living faith are delivered through him from God's wrath and from destruction**, and receive the gift of eternal life.

The Elect Respond to the Gospel he hears

1. God planned (ordained) for you, the elect, to get the Gospel even before the world was even formed.

2 Timothy 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, **not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,**

This is true love! This was not like when you forget your child's birthday and pick up something at the drug store on the way home! Even for Mother's Day, you probably just started giving thought to it! But God planned your salvation for a long time.

In fact, the Apostle Paul reiterated that everything was put in place before you were even born!

Ephesians 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation** of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, **5** having predestined

us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the **good pleasure of His will**,

2. At the time appointed by God in the course of history, you heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is no other way!

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

And this is how your election was worked out!

Romans 9:11 (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, **not of works but of Him who calls**),

Election was not zapped into our heads from heaven.

4. So if you want those around you to believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ and live, make the effort to tell them.

This is the way God commanded. There is no other! Just like someone came to you, you must go to others.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? **And how shall they hear without a preacher?**

The Lord showed Apostle Paul in a vision and he moved! Today you must look for the opportunities. Listen for opportunities. Research. Read history. Ask questions. See where men need the Gospel.

Acts 16:9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."
10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Use social media. Use the internet. Give a Bible. Invite people to church. Start a discussion group. Young people, when last you used your social media to talk to someone who is heading to hell about Jesus?

5. If you are not able to go, send others with your prayer and support – all kinds...not just money.

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 **Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.**

Don't ever make an excuse that you can't go! The elect need the Word. If others are willing and qualified to go, send them. There may be natives in foreign lands who need support to preach the Gospel. Support them as well.

The Elect Respond by Mixing the Gospel with Faith

Article 5: The Sources of Unbelief and of Faith: The cause or blame for this unbelief, as well as for all other sins, is not at all in God, but in humanity. **Faith in Jesus Christ, however, and salvation through him is a free gift of God.** As Scripture says, "For by grace have you been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." Likewise: "For God has graciously granted you the privilege . . . of believing in Christ . . ."

1. After you hear the Word – the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and believed it, you then mix that Word with faith, faith which is a gift of God.

Water is good and a cement mix is good, but to be great, they have to be mixed together. So faith and the Word must mix.

2. With faith, the hand and mouth of the soul, you digested that truth and hold on to it for the rest of your earthly life.

You see that holding on to Jesus when Jacob clung to the pre-incarnate Jesus.

Genesis 32:24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. 25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. 26 And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "**I will not let You go** unless You bless me!"

The fuller text showed Jacob moved from "**wrestling**" with Jesus to "**clinging**" to Jesus. This was a picture of most people...they move from fighting the Lord to embracing him.

3. There are some who will not listen to God's Word (they hate God), and they will not mix what they hear with faith.

They do not want his Word and they do not want his faith. It is not God's fault they reject his Word and refuse his gift. They are bound for hell.

4. Some people say they have not been saved because they are not of the elect.

But that is absolutely incorrect. Some people are not saved because they reject God. They hate God and everything he stands for. That is man's natural state. They inherited the rebellion from their parents and they continued in that rebellion. That is the only ground for their condemnation in hell. Illustration: If your phone rings and you don't answer it, do you say, "I didn't get the message?"

2Corinthians 2: 14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. 15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being

saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

And of course, God was not bound to save anyone!

5. Some say they have sought the Lord but the Lord does not want them to find him.

That is not the truth either. Man does not want to seek God. They have all turned aside to their own ways.

John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 **"But you are not willing to come to Me** that you may have life.

Look at the promise of God.

Deuteronomy 4:29 "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and **you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.**

Remember, God has no pleasure in the death (condemnation to hell) of the sinner.

6. Some say, "I've prayed, I've gone to church, and I've read my Bible, but I am not a Christian; only God can make me a Christian."

The problem is they don't really want to surrender. They should say, "**Lord I am guilty and you are pure. I am stubborn but you are gracious. Make me clean and help me to submit to your will.**"

John 3: 36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

The wrath of God is not on those who are "not elect." **The wrath of God is on those who do not believe.**

7. Some argue that God is too nice and sweet to reject anyone and send him to hell.

This is why you might hear someone say when a wicked person dies: "He is with God now." They assume God has chosen and loves every single person and eventually everyone will end up in heaven.

Some, like Roman Catholics and Muslims, believe in purgatory, where the wicked will wait, be purged, and moved to heaven.

The sense of the eternal fires of hell is missing from their beliefs. But God is just and cannot allow those who don't have Christ as their Covenant keeper to be saved. **If they don't have someone to die for them, they will have to die for themselves.**

8. Some indirectly condemn God for being unfair because he did not give faith to some.

But if God were fair to everyone one, everyone would go to hell. He is fair to all who are condemned. They get exactly what they deserved and nothing more.

Romans 1:28 And even as they **did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind**, to do those things which are not fitting;

But God is gracious to all whom he elected. Being gracious doesn't mean he is unfair.

Romans 9: 18 Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and **whom He wills He hardens.**

So if someone does not respond in faith, it is because of his own sin. He can blame no other.

Conclusion:

God sends his Word – the Gospel of Jesus Christ – so the elect can hear of God's holiness, of man's sins, and of the work of the Savior for him. The sinner then combines the Gospel he heard with the faith he is given so he can hold on to God's promises. This is his salvation!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Stop and wonder at the greatness of your election – how unworthy you were- and you will praise God better and more consistently than you ever have.

2. Those who reject God's election as the foundation for salvation rob God of his rightful praise!

3. Proclaim (and support the proclamation of) the Gospel so the elect will hear and believe!
If you can't take the Gospel, send it with others!

4. The more you mix faith with your knowledge of the Gospel, the more you will make your calling and election sure!

Finally: If you are not a Christian it is not for you to wonder whether you are elected or not. Instead, come to God for your spiritual needs. He promised that he will turn none away but will save all who come. He assures you that he will work in your heart and give you the assurance that he has saved you. But he also gives a warning to those who will not come. His love is great but his judgment is fierce.