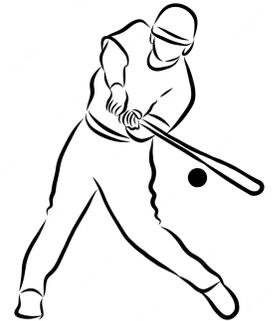


Westminster Confession of Faith

3. Of God's Eternal Decree

3.1. Sovereignty of God

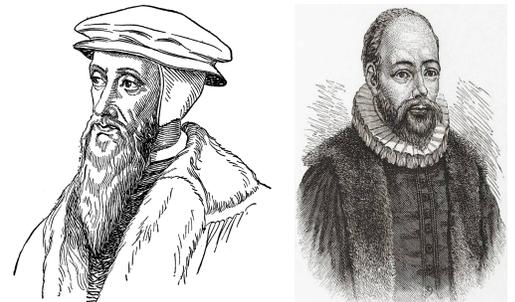
- A. Unambiguous statement on God's sovereignty (with a qualification)
 - 1) "did ordain whatsoever" - Ephesians 1:11
 - 2) His decree is "unchangeable" - Hebrews 6:17
 - 3) Not "the author of sin" - Psalm 5:4; Habakkuk 1:13
- B. Is there *comfort* to be found in God's sovereignty? Read Matt 6:25-34
- C. "The liberty or contingency of ***second causes***"??
- D. Acts 2:23 - "this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, ***you crucified and killed*** by the hands of lawless men." Jesus' crucifixion - was it by primary or secondary cause?
- E. Also see Acts 4:27-28.



Primary or secondary cause?

3.2. Against Arminianism

- A. Are God's decrees conditional on man's response? See 1 Samuel 23:11-12
- B. Why might this be attractive or desirable by many?
- C. Do God's eternal decrees take away our "free will"?



Who are these men?

3.3. Election & Reprobation

- A. By God's decree, all men & angels are either:
 - 1) ...***predestined*** unto everlasting life OR
 - 2) ...***foreordained*** to everlasting death
- B. Why the two different words?
- C. If God CAN save SOME, why doesn't He save ALL? See Romans 9:18-21

"God does more than offer Himself to people. He must do a work not only for us, but also in us (John 3:3)."

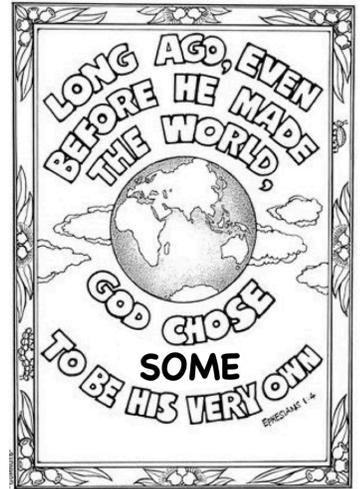
R.C. Sproul

3.4. The Unchangeableness of God's Decree

- A. The Lord knows from all eternity who are His.
- B. God's decrees are FINAL!!
- C. If this is so, why should we evangelize...or pray for the salvation of the lost (some would ask)?

3.5. God Chose Some...

- A. This is a look at the “HOW” of God’s decree of predestination unto life.
- B. Very simply...the Bible states that **God has CHOSEN**:
 - 1) In Christ, unto everlasting glory
 - 2) (ONLY) out of his free grace and love
- C. Yet NOT because he foresaw:
 - 1) faith
 - 2) or good works,
 - 3) or perseverance in either of these,
 - 4) or **anything else in the creature.**
- D. And all to the praise of his glorious grace.



Eph 1:4,11; Rom 8:28-30
2 Timothy 1:9

3.6. The “Means” of Our Salvation

- A. Here’s what God has decreed for those He has chosen (being fallen in Adam):
 - 1) We are redeemed by Xp,
 - 2) effectually called to faith in Christ by his Spirit (working in due season), and
 - 3) justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept (by his power, through faith) unto salvation
- B. This is the good news. It’s not up to US, it’s ordained by GOD!

3.7. God Passed By the Rest...

- A. “Single predestination” -
- B. “Double predestination” -
- C. “...he extendeth or withholdeth mercy”
 - 1) See Rom 9:14-15
 - 2) Everyone is in one of two groups - mercy received, or mercy withheld

3.8. Handle With Care

- A. “...high mystery of predestination” - there IS mystery involved!
- B. Why should it be “handled with special prudence and care?”
 - 1) Easy to misunderstand and misrepresent
 - 2) Many among us lack assurance
 - 3) In some circles, this can be associated w/ the ugliness of pride
- C. What this doctrine should produce within and amongst us.

