

The Canons of Dort, Part I

"Divine Election and Reprobation"

Ephesians 1:3-6

Going Beyond the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on October 28, 2018

Entering In:

Share if you have studied or heard sermons on the Canons of Dort.

Why do you think the Canons are not studied nor preached much in the church?

1. What are the definitions of election and reprobation? Fill in the blanks found from the Canons of Dort.

"God has decreed to give to () those chosen for salvation, and to call and draw them effectively into Christ's fellowship through the Word and Spirit. In other words, God decreed to grant them () in Christ..." [Art. 7].

God has decreed "to leave them in the () into which, by their own fault, they have plunged themselves; not to grant them () and the grace of conversion..." [Art. 1].

2. What are the sources of unbelief and of faith? [Art. 5]

On what is God's election based? [Art. 10]

3. Arminians object that the doctrines of election and reprobation are unfair because they leave us with no say about our eternal destiny. They appeal to a parallel passage, Romans 8:29, 30, to assert that God's election is based on his *foreknowledge*. How do they define God's *foreknowledge*?

Does the fact that God foresees all things, and thus foresees who will come to faith, necessarily disprove the biblical doctrine of sovereign election? Why or why not?

4. In Ephesians 1:4, what is the goal of God's sovereign election of his people?

What is the goal of God's sovereign election in Romans 8:29?

Are election and foreknowledge the same or different? Explain your answer.

5. How is God's foreknowledge related to sovereign choice, calling, justification, etc. in the following passages?

- Abraham (Genesis 18:18-19)
- Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:5)
- False disciples (Matthew 7:21-23)
- True believers (2 Timothy 2:19)
- Israel (Romans 11:2)

If the word *love* was substituted for *know* in these passages, would it change the intent of the message?

What does that tell you about the meaning of the word *know* as it is used in Scripture?

Does it make sense, in view of God's attributes, to speak of his *foreknowledge* in the light of eternity? If not, for whose sake is this term used?

In what part of our Ephesians passage is God's *foreknowledge*, which is mentioned in Romans 8:29, to be found?

6. In what ways does your studying of election and reprobation help you?

What is the fruit of the assurance of election? [Art. 13]

Living It Out:

Pray that you may bear the fruit of the assurance of election.