

**Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics**

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

The Heights Church December 2, 2018

Review– Five Articles/ Canons of Dort

Five Articles of the Remonstrance	Canons of Dort (“Five Points of Calvinism”)
1. Conditional Election	1. Unconditional Election
2. General Atonement	2. Limited Atonement
3. Free Will (<i>Depravity</i>)	3. Total Depravity
4. Resistible/Prevenient Grace	4. Irresistible Grace
5. Conditional Preservation	5. Perseverance of the Saints

Reformed vs Arminian Soteriology – the essential differences

Five Points	Calvinists	Arminians
Total Depravity	Free Will was lost in the Fall.	Every natural born person was corrupted by the Fall but Free Will was not lost in the Fall.
Unconditional Election	God elects a remnant of people based on his love/grace/mercy and not based on the merits of each individual elect person.	God elects those he omnisciently foresaw would come to faith by their own Free Will.
Limited Atonement	Christ's atonement was only for the elect.	Christ's atonement was for every person.
Irresistible Grace	The Holy Spirit changes the heart of the elect so that it is impossible for them to not believe in Christ.	The Holy Spirit tries to woo every person to believe in Christ but leaves the final choice up to each person's Free Will.
Perseverance of the Saints	The elect cannot lose their salvation.	A true believer can lose their salvation because of Free Will.

Unconditional Election - The Elect (Review)

From now on Christians (meaning “true Christians”) will usually be referred to as the ***elect***. Technically the term elect includes:

1. all the OT Saints, all who have died as believers,
2. all deceased “true Christians”
3. all living “true Christians”
4. all living people who currently are not “true Christians” but will be “Born again” before their death
5. all the unborn people who will become “true Christians” in their lifetimes.

Unconditional Election - Foreknowledge

- In English "foreknowledge" is used in two ways:
 1. It is a term used in theology to denote the prescience or foresight of God (omniscience), that is, His knowledge of the entire course of events which are future from the human point of view;
 2. It is also used to translate two Greek words:
 - **proginōskō**: Romans 8:29, 11:2; 1 Peter 1:20
 - **prognosis**: Acts 2:23 1 Peter 1:2
 - These words approach closely the idea of fore- ordination.

Unconditional Election - Foreknowledge

- **28** And we know that for those **who love God** all things work together for good, for those who are **called according to his purpose**. **29** For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30** And those whom he predestined he also **called**, and those whom he called he also **justified**, and those whom he justified he also **glorified**. (Romans 8:28-30)

Unconditional Election - proginōskō:

1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. **2** God has not rejected **his people whom he foreknew**. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? **3** "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life." **4** But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." **5** So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. **6** But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

Unconditional Election - proginōskō:

- **7** What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, **8** as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day."

(Romans 11:7-8)

Unconditional Election - proginōskō:

knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. **20** He was **foreknown** before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you **21** who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

(1 Peter 1:18-21),

Unconditional Election - prognōsis:

this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and **foreknowledge** of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. Acts 2:23

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are *elect* exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

(1 Peter 1:1-2)

Unconditional Election - Foreknowledge

- If *proginōskō* and *prognōsis* meant only prescience/omniscience then many passages of Scripture would be contradicted such as:
- though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad--in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls- ([Romans 9:11](#));
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love [Ephesians 1:3,4](#);
- who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, [2 Timothy 1:9](#));