

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

Protestant Reformation Doctrines of Salvation

The Heights Church September 16, 2018

Interlude: Why Does God Do What He Does?

- Sometimes Scripture tells us **why** God does something but often God simply **commands or decrees**. For example:
- Why does God cause Christians to be born again?

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! **According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

- Why would Adam die if he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, **for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**" (Genesis 2:16 – 17)

Interlude: Why Does God Do What He Does?

- Sometimes Scripture tells us **why** God does something but often God simply **commands or decrees**. For example:
- What is God's purpose in election?

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**-- she was told, "The older will serve the younger." As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." (Romans 9:11 -13)

- Is God unjust regarding election?

What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, **"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."** **So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.** (Romans 9:14 – 16)

Interlude: Why Does God Do What He Does?

- There are other times that a reason is not explicitly given in a passage but inferences are drawn from other passages to try to explain why. This requires great wisdom and care! For example:
 - The Westminster Shorter Catechism Question 1: What is the chief end of man?
 - Answer: **Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever.**
- **So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)**
- **For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:36)**
- Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works. (Psalm 73:25 – 28)

Interlude: Why Does God Do What He Does?

- Many times we simply must believe God and trust God.

the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. (Psalm 19:8 – 9)

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100:5)

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. (Psalm 104:24)

Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. (Psalm 115:3)

O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar... Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether... Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them... How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! (Psalm 139:1 – 2, 4, 16, 17)

Interlude: Why Does God Do What He Does?

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! (Romans 11:33)

for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. (1 John 3:20)

- Besides this we have all the attributes of God such as Omnipresence, Omnipotence, Omniscience, Sovereignty over everything, perfection in justice, holiness, grace, mercy, patience, love, faithfulness.
- Do not be a fool and not trust and obey God!

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good. (Psalm 14:1)