

Objections to the Doctrine of Predestination

Text: So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. (Romans 9:16)

Intro: Fairness

Objection 1: Is God _____?

Scripture quote:

Scripture example:

Note:

Objection 2: Are humans _____?

The Potter

Note:

God's Twofold Purpose:

v23 - vessels of mercy ...*which He prepared beforehand for glory...*

v24 - vessels of wrath ...*prepared for destruction.*

What if God, willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? (Romans 9:22)

Example: _____ and _____.

Application 1: Mystery

Application 2: Reprobation

WHAT IN THIS MATTER IS TO BE CONDEMNED: Therefore we do not approve of the impious speeches of some who say,

“Few are chosen, and since I do not know whether I am among the number of the few, I will enjoy myself.”

Others say,

“If I am predestinated and elected by God, nothing can hinder me from salvation, which is already certainly appointed for me, no matter what I do. But if I am in the number of the reprobate, no faith or repentance will help me, since the decree of God cannot be changed. Therefore all doctrines and admonitions are useless.”

Now the saying of the apostle contradicts these men: “The Lord’s servant must be ready to teach, instructing those who oppose him, so that if God should grant that they repent to know the truth, they may recover from the snare of the devil, after being held captive by him to do his will.” (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

WHETHER WE ARE ELECTED: We therefore find fault with those who outside of Christ ask whether they are elected. And what has God decreed concerning them before all eternity? For the preaching of the Gospel is to be heard, and it is to be believed; and it is to be held as beyond doubt that if you believe and are in Christ, you are elected. For the Father has revealed unto us in Christ the eternal purpose of his predestination, as I have just now shown from the apostle in 2 Timothy 1:9-10. This is therefore above all to be taught and considered, what great love of the Father toward us is revealed to us in Christ. We must hear what the Lord himself daily preaches to us in the Gospel, how he calls and says: “*Come to me all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest*” (Matt. 11:28). “*God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life*” (John 3:16). Also, “*It is not the will of my Father that one of these little ones should perish*” (Matthew 18:14).

Let Christ, therefore be the looking glass, in whom we may contemplate our predestination. We shall have a sufficiently clear and sure testimony that we are inscribed in the Book of Life if we have fellowship with Christ, and He is ours and we are His in true faith. --Second Helvetic Confession

Application 3: Our Situation

Matthew 11:25-30