
THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

Week 3 - God's Decree

3:1 God's Decree

God had ordained ALL things that come to pass (Ephesians 1:11; Psalm 135:6)

Preceptive Will

Decretive Will

What about sin? (James 1:13-14; Romans 9:17-18)

What about bad things/tragedy? (Psalm 5:4; Acts 2:23)

What about my will/choice? (Acts 4:27-28)

What about second causes?

3:2 The Basis of God's Decree

Basis of God's predestination is His will, not his foreknowledge (Ephesians 1:5)

3:3 God's Decree and Salvation

Predestination includes those who will be saved (John 5:21; 6:65; Romans 9:18; 2 Timothy 1:9)

We are the ones who exercise faith, but God chooses and God gives us that ability by grace (Ephesians 2:8-9)

3:4 God's Decree and Limited Atonement

Limited Atonement

The Cross is SUFFICIENT for ALL

The Cross is EFFICIENT for SOME

God alone knows the number (Deuteronomy 29:29)

3:5 God's Decree is All of Grace

God Chose...

Before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4)

Because He chose us (Ephesians 1:9, 11)

Secretly (Ephesians 1:11)

Purely out of grace and love, not because of anything in man

(2 Timothy 1:9)

To manifest His glory (Ephesians 1:6, 12)

3:7 God's Decree to Pass By

God chooses to pass by others

"Double predestination"

3:8 God's Decree a High Mystery

What do we do with this?

"High mystery" – receiving v. understanding

Prudence and care

Benefits

Assurance of salvation (1 Thessalonians 1:4-5)

Praise, reverence, admiration of God (Ephesians 1:6)

Humility, diligence, consolation (Romans 11:5-6, 20)

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