

Emmaus Essentials
The London Baptist Confession of 1689
Chapter 3 - Of God's Decree (Part 2 - Paragraphs 3-7)
For Distribution the Week of 12/29/2013

I. Introduction

II. Paragraph 3

"By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated, or foreordained to eternal life through Jesus Christ, to the praise of his glorious grace; others being left to act in their sin to their just condemnation, to the praise of his glorious justice."

A. Overview of the Paragraph

1. Predestination
2. Reprobation

B. Analysis of the Parts

1. "By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated, or foreordained to eternal life through Jesus Christ, to the praise of his glorious grace..."
 - a) Predestination
 - (1) "For the manifestation of his glory"
 - (2) "Some"
 - (3) "Men and angels"
 - (a) In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. (1 Timothy 5:21, ESV)
 - (4) "Predestined or foreordained"
 - (a) προορίζω; προαιρέομαι: to come to a decision beforehand—"to decide beforehand, to determine ahead of time, to decide upon ahead of time." (Louw-Nida)
 - (5) "To eternal life"
 - (6) "Through Jesus Christ"
 - (7) "To the praise of his glorious grace"
 2. "...Others being left to act in their sin to their just condemnation, to the praise of his glorious justice..."
 - a) Reprobation
 - (1) "Others"
 - (2) "Being left to act in their sin to their just condemnation"
 - (a) It's not as if the reprobate are left to do something other than what they choose to do, namely, rebel against God.
 - (3) "To the praise of his glorious justice"

C. Key Scripture

1. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (Matthew 25:32-34, ESV)
2. 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, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose

of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:3–6, ESV)

3. What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— (Romans 9:22–23, ESV)

II. Paragraph 4

“These angels and men thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed, and their number so certain and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished.”

A. Overview of the Paragraph

1. The unchanging specificity of predestination

B. Analysis of the Parts

C. Scriptural Evidence

1. But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.” (2 Timothy 2:19, ESV)
2. and all who dwell on earth will worship it [the beast], everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. (Revelation 13:8, ESV)

III. Paragraph 5

“Those of mankind that are predestinated to life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to his eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will, hath chosen in Christ unto everlasting glory, out of his mere free grace and love, without any other thing in the creature as a condition or cause moving him thereunto.”

A. Overview of the Paragraph

1. Unconditional Election

B. Analysis of the Parts

1. “Chosen in Christ”
2. “Out of his mere free grace and love”
3. “Without any other thing in the creature as a condition or cause moving him thereunto”

C. Key Scripture

1. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8–9, ESV)
2. even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— (Ephesians 2:5, ESV)
3. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, 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 1:8–9, ESV)

III. Paragraph 6

“As God hath appointed the elect unto glory, so he hath, by the eternal and most free purpose of his will, foreordained all the means thereunto; wherefore they who are elected, being fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ, are effectually called unto faith in Christ, by his Spirit working in due season, are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by his power through faith unto salvation; neither are any other redeemed by Christ, or effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved, but the elect only.”

A. Overview of the Paragraph

1. The effectual execution of election (order of salvation)

B. Analysis of the Parts

1. "As God hath appointed the elect unto glory, so he hath, by the eternal and most free purpose of his will, foreordained all the means thereunto"
 - a) The means are divinely appointed
2. "wherefore they who are elected, being fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ, are effectually called unto faith in Christ, by his Spirit working in due season, are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by his power through faith unto salvation"
 - a) Order of salvation (see chapters 10-17)
3. "neither are any other redeemed by Christ, or effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved, but the elect only."

C. Key Scripture

1. But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 2:13–14, ESV)
2. 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. 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 8:29–30, ESV)
3. Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. (John 10:25–26, ESV)
4. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. (John 17:9, ESV)
5. But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) (John 6:64, ESV)

IV. Paragraph 7

"The doctrine of this high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care, that men attending the will of God revealed in his Word, and yielding obedience thereunto, may, from the certainty of their effectual vocation, be assured of their eternal election; so shall this doctrine afford matter of praise, reverence, and admiration of God, and of humility, diligence, and abundant consolation to all that sincerely obey the gospel."

A. Overview of the Paragraph

1. Handle with care

B. Analysis of the Parts

1. See intro to part 1
2. "So shall this doctrine afford matter of praise, reverence, and admiration of God"
3. "and of humility, diligence, and abundant consolation to all that sincerely obey the gospel."

C. Key Scripture

1. he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:5–6, ESV)
2. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8–10, ESV)