

Belgic Confession, Article 16, “The Doctrine of Election”

Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

Lesson Aim	To understand three things: First, what predestination is, second what the benefits of predestination are and third, what the God of predestination is like.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Article 16 and Ephesians 1:3-14 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>The Scriptures teach that predestination is a decree of God, what is that? It is an absolute command of God that is always effective. God decreed creation, the sustaining of the creation and the eternal destiny of all people.</p> <p>How do we define predestination? It is God’s decree to save some people out of the fallen mass of humanity for salvation and others for damnation. Predestination has two parts: Election and Reprobation.</p> <p>What is election? Election is God’s decree to save some people out of the fallen mass of humanity. His decision was made before the creation of the world and the fall and is not based on what people would do or not do.</p> <p>What are some Scriptures that teach election? Psalm 65:4; Matthew 11:27, 22:14; Acts 13:48; Romans 9:11-12. Read these Scriptures out loud!</p> <p>What is reprobation? God actively choosing to pass over, with his grace, those who are not elect.</p> <p>What are some Scriptures that teach reprobation? Romans 9:21-22, 1 Peter 2:8, Jude 1:4.</p> <p>Is it fair that only some people will be saved and go to heaven based on God’s decision? Yes. In fact, it would be fair or just if all people were lost in hell because all people deserve hell, not heaven. Paul teaches that we are not to talk back to God but to receive by faith what is taught in the Scriptures.</p> <p>Can we lose our election and be lost in hell? No. All elect people will be in heaven necessarily.</p>
Bible Reading	Joshua 1-6 [Israel enters the Promised Land and Jericho falls] (covering the great Bible stories)