

III. By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels<sup>70</sup> are predestinated unto everlasting life; and others foreordained to everlasting death.<sup>71</sup>

IV. 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.<sup>72</sup>

V. Those of mankind that are predestinated unto 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, has chosen, in Christ, unto everlasting glory,<sup>73</sup> out of His mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith, or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving Him thereunto;<sup>74</sup> and all to the praise of His glorious grace.<sup>75</sup>

*Predestinated—predetermined unto an end or decreed to something.*

*Foreordained—appointed beforehand, pre-determined.*

<sup>70</sup> 1 Timothy 5:21 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.

Matthew 25:41 "Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire *prepared for the devil and his angels.*'"

<sup>71</sup> Romans 9:22-23 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—*

Ephesians 1:5-6 *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.

Proverbs 16:4 The LORD has made everything for its purpose, *even the wicked for the day of trouble.*

<sup>72</sup> 2 Timothy 2:19 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."

John 13:18 I am not speaking of all of you; *I know whom I have chosen.* But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.'

<sup>73</sup> Ephesians 1:4, 9, 11 even as *he chose us* in him before the foundation of the world, *that we should be holy and blameless before him...* making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ...In him we have obtained an inheritance, *having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*

Romans 8:28-30 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 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.*

2 Timothy 1:9 *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,

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God *has not destined us* for wrath, *but to obtain salvation* through our Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>74</sup> Romans 9:11, 13, 16 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—...As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."... So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

Ephesians 1:4, 9 11 even as *he chose us* in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him...making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ,

<sup>75</sup> 1 Peter 1:2 (*to the*) elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, *for (εἰς) obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:* Grace to you and peace be multiplied. (NKJV)

Ephesians 1:4-5 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,

2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus *for (ἐπι -purpose) good works,* which God prepared beforehand, *that we should walk in them.*

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, *because God has chosen you from the beginning for (εἰς) salvation* through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

In Scripture election and calling (what we are commanded to) are clearly distinguished—the latter is represented as the effect of the former. In other words God’s election/predestination is for a purpose—His glory in our calling; we are to be holy as He is holy. We benefit now and eternally (with life) but so much more so in that we are with Him and His possession eternally. Our desire and delight is to glorify Him now and forever.

### **John 15:16**

You did not choose Me,  
BUT I chose you,  
and appointed (established) you,  
*in order that* you would go  
and would bear fruit,  
and your fruit would remain;  
*in order that* whatever someone (of you) would ask the Father in My name,  
He would give to you.

The Predestination of God, His election or foreordination, is for His purpose alone. We benefit because He is God—the God who He is; holy, righteous, eternal, etc.

Our calling as Christians is solely to glorify Him and we do so just as this Confession says;

*Q1 What is the chief end (purpose) of man?*

*A. Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.*

John Piper adds an idea to this that is not dissimilar to it—he says the chief end of man is to glorify God **by** enjoying Him forever. In other words our delight in the will and glory of God glorifies Him. That delight comes from a heart reborn—renewed by Him. See Psalm 119 (the whole thing).

This is true, but it does not fulfill completely the purpose given in the Confession and catechism, in that the duty still exists and our delight does not entirely fulfill that command. The delight results from fulfilling it.

None of any of this, start to finish, can be our doing, for then we take from God what is solely His, his sovereignty and Person, we steal from Him. From start to finish salvation is His alone. He gives in grace as He sees fit.