

Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) 2020-2021

Women's Thursday Bible Study #5

Prayer from Valley of Vision

Review thus far to this point of Q. 12-14 WLC

Rom. 11:33-36

The following material is from a sermon by D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (MLJ) on the Eternal Decrees of God.

What are your struggles with this or objections commonly argued against this doctrine? I.e. Why do many strongly object to this doctrine?

Why is this very difficult issue important to us?

1. It **IS** revealed in the Bible thus it is for us
2. It reveals fresh aspects of the Glory of God.
3. It saves us from many errors about God.
4. I know of nothing that gives me more increasing comfort than this doctrine.

So in approaching these 3 questions of the WLC , what should our heart and mind set be? (I Cor. 4:7) Humility, faith, not asking questions that go beyond clear revelation of Scripture.

Introduce the word - *antinomy* - two truths that man cannot reconcile .

Read all Q. 12-14 Let's get some terms basically defined:

Decree – plan Foreknowledge- God knows beforehand

Foreordained - God arranges all beforehand

Predestination- to fix beforehand, God set apart a people He chose to receive the destiny of salvation and eternal glory

{ What is difference in these two terms?}

Election- special term applied to the ' heirs of salvation' meaning selected, chosen out , designated by grace

Reprobation - word **NOT** used in the Westminster Standards - the non-elect are passed by and left in their sin

Having agreed that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are our authority for faith and practice, and having agreed on the character and attributes of our Triune God, here are some **propositions**.

- 1. God has from eternity had an unchangeable plan with reference to all his creatures and their destiny.**
- 2. This plan of God comprehends and determines all events , things of every kind that come to pass.**
- 3. All the decrees are unconditional and absolutely sovereign.**
- 4. These decrees of God are efficacious (certain) - this follows that they cannot fail but are bound to come to pass.**
- 5. These decrees of God are in all things consistent with his most wise, holy, and benevolent nature.**
- 6. The salvation of certain people is determined before.**

Now we will go back to Propositions 1 and 2.

Eph: 1:10-11

Prov. 16:33

Mat. 10:29,30

Prov. 21:1

Eph. 2:10

Phil 2:13

This includes the actions of sinful man. Acts 2:23 and 4:27-28 Case of Judas

Gen. 45:8 and 50:20

This also includes actions that “appear” accidental or just chance happenings. (I Kgs 22:28)

*Now Proposition 3.

- not dependent on men's or creatures actions

- Not in light of what He knows they will do

Dan. 4:35

Mat. 11:25-26

Eph. 1:4-5

Rom. 9: 11,14-18

*Now Proposition 4 and 5

God is never the cause of sin.

Hab. 1:13

Jam. 1:13

*Proposition 6

Mat. 11:25

John 6:37,54

Rom. 9:19-24

Acts. 13:48

II Thess. 2:13

II Tim. 1:9

Prayer

Next week:

Pressing onQ. 15-20

Creation and Providence - impossible task but just begin looking up the proof texts!