



WCF Prayer:

Chapter 3 -

Of God's Eternal Decrees

Lord God Almighty,

We acknowledge that You are free to determine and bring about whatever You decide. Your wisdom is perfect, pure, holy and good. We bow in awe knowing that whatever You ordain will happen and is unchangeable.

We recognize that although we are broken by our fallen nature and surrounded by sin, You are neither the author of our sin nor do You make us think or act in any deterministic way. You are sovereign in every aspect of the working out of Your will yet You never deprive us of true decision making and acting. We cannot fathom how this sits together Lord, but in fulfilling your will sovereignly nor do you remove the natural outcomes of cause and effect as we act from our free decision making.

In fact Sovereign Lord we marvel that invariably you work out Your will through our decisions and the cause and effect that follows.

Living God, we worship You because although You knew all that would happen in advance during the history of this world, You did not merely make decrees based on what you knew would happen. Rather, we worship you because Your decrees were determined by Your free, wise, and unchangeable will.

We thank you for revealing to us that for Your glory, You predestined a certain number of men and angels to everlasting life, and You foreordained others to everlasting death. We understand from your Word that those predestined and foreordained by Your decree are a specific and an unchangeable number. We are humbled before Your wisdom, power but grace.

Lord, as we receive this mystery revealed to us—work within us Lord a growing assurance based on these truths that chosen before the very foundation of the world, all you elect will indeed, at the right time be wooed to saving faith.

Lord, we are also humbled by this truth and that the wisdom behind it is known only to You. You have chosen us in Christ for our everlasting glory but Your praise dear Lord.

As we marvel at this electing mercy, we know that You elected us not because of anything good You foresaw in us, nor because You simply knew in advance that we would come to believe. We confess Your grace is freely given to us without reference to anything good in us, and for this, we praise You and give You glory.

In Your sovereignty, Lord, You determined the mechanisms and experiences in life that would bring Your decrees to fulfilment.

We rest with complete assurance that although we know ourselves fallen in Adam, all who you elected for redemption in Christ will most certainly be effectually called to faith in Christ by Your Spirit - and at your perfect time.

Heavenly Father, by the work of Your Spirit, we have complete confidence that all who are elected for redemption in Christ will therefore be justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by Your power through faith for all eternity.

Lord, we acknowledge with humility that Your will is inscrutable and we need you to tell us of your will in this regard. And You have led us to understand that You grant many mercy and glory but pass over others. Those you pass over we understand Lord God you ordain to dishonour and wrath for their sin. Your grace is amazing. We acknowledge the perfections of Your justice.

Lord, this matter of predestination is a mystery to us. We recognize how careful we must be as we think about this ourselves and discuss with others inside and outside Your church.

Help us receive this truth in full obedience. May we be comforted through knowledge of your eternal decrees. And may it therefore be Lord God that this knowledge becomes a matter of praise, reverence, and admiration for You, the one true God.

^dActs 15:18; 1 Sam 23:11-12; Matt 11:21,23. ^eRom 9:11,13,16,18.

^f1 Tim 5:21; Matt 25:41. ^gRom 9:22-23; Eph 1:5-6; Prov 16:4.

^h2 Tim 2:19; John 13:18.

ⁱEph 1:4,9,11; Rom 8:30; 2 Tim 1:9; 1 Thess 5:9. ^kRom 9:11,13,16; Eph 1:4,9. ^lEph 1:6,12.

^m1 Pet 1:2; Eph 1:4-5; Eph 2:10; 2 Thess 2:13. ⁿ1 Thess 5:9,10; Tit 2:14. ^oRom 8:30; Eph 1:5; 2 Thess 2:13. ^p1 Pet 1:5; ^qJohn 17:9; Rom 8:28-39; John 6:64-65; John 10:26; John 8:47; 1 John 2:19.

^rMatt 11:25-26; Rom 9:17-18,21-22; 2 Tim 2:19-20; Jude 4; 1 Pet 2:8.

^aEph 1:11; Rom 11:33; Heb 6:17; Rom 9:15,18. ^bJames 1:13,17; 1 John 1:5. ^cActs 2:23; Matt 17:12; Acts 4:27-28; John 19:11; Prov 16:33.