

# Divine Election... Predestination

## A Lutheran Perspective

1. Predestination is a doctrine of comfort, not doubt.
2. Predestination is a secondary doctrine, not a primary.
3. The chair passage of divine election is Romans 8:29-30.
4. Romans 8:29-30 was at the heart of the Lutheran Church split in the late 1800's. The points in tension were:
  - a. Election "For" Faith (which many viewed as Calvinistic)
  - b. Election "In View Of" Faith (which many viewed as Arminian)
5. Whenever scripture uses the term of Election, some 70 times, it is applied only to the believing Christian.
6. The doctrine of election is set forth for believers in the midst of trials and temptations.
7. Predestination is never to be given the central place in the Christian system. It is only to be treated after the fundamental doctrines have been taught as in Romans 8:29-30. It should follow after the teachings of: sin, grace, calling, justification, etc...
8. Predestination deals with Christians specifically not in general, thus bringing personal assurance.
9. Predestination has nothing to do with the so called non-elect (i.e. non-believers).
10. Predestination is a doctrine that belongs to the Gospel... not the Law.
11. Predestination not only grants assurance in trials but compels one in sanctification.
12. If you the hearer find yourself reacting negatively to the doctrine of predestination, your ears are not hearing it correctly. If you are reacting negatively you are hearing it through a lens of Law, not Gospel.
13. Luther understood the impasse at which one arrives by retaining the total depravity of man, universal grace and God's election of individuals, but he never tried to harmonize the teachings.
14. Divine Election is always in Christ and never apart from Christ. "Look to Christ and you will know that you are elected."
15. "A dispute about predestination should be avoided entirely... I forget everything about Christ and God when I come upon these thoughts and actually get to the point of imagining that God is a rogue. We must stay in the Word, in which God is revealed to us and salvation offered, if we believe in Him. But in thinking about predestination, we forget about God... However, in Christ are hid all the treasures; outside him all are locked up. Therefore, we should simply refuse to argue about election." Martin Luther
16. "For this you should know: all such suggestions and dispute about predestination are surely of the devil." Martin Luther
17. Divine election is a doctrine of comfort for us... Beyond that it belongs to the category of 'mystery.' To speak more on the subject only leads to division and disunity.