



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 6 October 2019

Theme for the Year: "Strength in Weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

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| Prelude | <i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i> |
| Call to Worship | |
| *Opening Hymn | 82 - <i>Join All the Glorious Names</i> |
| *Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i> | |
| Scripture Reading | Hebrews 9:15-28 |
| The Lord's Supper | |
| Hymn | 555 - <i>Lead Me to Calvary</i> |
| Hymn | 140 - <i>At the Cross</i> |
| Tithes & Offering | |
| *†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer | |
| Scripture Reading | Psalm 73:1-28 |
| Hymn | 177 - <i>Before the Throne of God Above</i> |
| Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer | |
| Sermon | "The Four Looks" |
| *Closing Hymn | 472 - <i>O For a Closer Walk With God</i> |
| *Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i> | |
| Silent Prayer & Postlude | |
| Announcements | <i>*Congregation standing</i> |

†Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen.

††Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 10:00 am
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia

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What Is Double Predestination?

Double predestination is a doctrine found in the Scriptures and the Reformed confessions. Simply stated, double predestination teaches that since man is totally unable to come to God for salvation, God chose some to eternal life and passed over others.

To examine this doctrine, this article will briefly explain both the doctrines of election and reprobation, answer a major objection, and explain in what way it is "double."

Election

Election is part of the more comprehensive doctrine of predestination, which teaches that God has foreordained everything that comes to pass.

The Bible in Acts 4:27-28 teaches that even the crucifixion of Christ and the role of Herod and Pilate were predestined by God. 1 Corinthians 2:7 teaches that the whole plan of salvation was also predestined by God.

Everything is predestined by God, including the salvation of some sinners. Romans 8:29,30 teaches that certain sinners are chosen to be saved, and those chosen, will be called, justified, and glorified. Many are called, but few are chosen (Matthew 22:14). It is a gracious election (Romans 11:5). Those chosen and saved have the capacity to live virtuous lives (Colossians 3:12).

The Westminster Confession says, "As God hath appointed the elect unto glory, so hath He, by the eternal and most free purpose of His will, foreordained all the means thereunto. Wherefore, they who are elected...are effectually called unto faith in Christ by His Spirit working in due season, are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by His power, through faith, unto salvation. Neither are any other redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved, but the elect only."

Reprobation

Just as some sinners are elected to eternal life, the rest are elected unto eternal damnation. This is called reprobation.

Calvin affirmed this doctrine. "Not all men are created with a similar destiny but eternal life is foreordained for some, and eternal damnation for others. Every man, therefore, being created for one or the other of these ends, we say, he is predestinated either to life or to death... there can be no election without its opposite, reprobation."

Scripture teaches reprobation. The wicked are foreordained to do the work of evil - "The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil" (Proverbs 16:4). Their disobedience is also foreordained - Christ is said to be to the wicked "a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed" (1 Peter 2:8). Moreover, they are foreordained to be judged for the evil that they do - "What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction" (Romans 9:22).

The Westminster Confession states, "The rest of mankind God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of His own will, whereby He extendeth or withholdeth mercy, as He pleaseth, for the glory of His Sovereign power over His creatures, to pass by; and to ordain them to dishonor and wrath for their sin, to the praise of His glorious justice."

Answering a Major Objection

One objection to reprobation is that God is unfair to choose some for damnation. There are three parts to answer this objection. Firstly, reprobation in itself is a fair and deserving fate of all sinners. God is under no obligation to save anyone. Since sin carries with it the

penalty of damnation, God would be completely fair to elect all to damnation. Furthermore, God did not cause man to sin, so the crime is wholly on the part of man. To fail to receive mercy is not be treated unfairly.

Secondly, reprobation as well as election is in the prerogative of a Sovereign God. God is sovereign – he could have chosen to save all, none, or some. By design, God chose to show mercy to and withhold fair and deserving punishment from some. God is under no obligation to show mercy to all (Exodus 33:19). Since God is sovereign, this is within his prerogative and he cannot be accused of not being fair to those whom he has not chosen.

Thirdly, the objection is flawed in its logic. If the damnation of all sinners is a fair and deserving punishment, then election must be unfair (as it withholds fair punishment). But opponents of reprobation are essentially arguing against reprobation because they hold that God must be fair in the distribution of his unfairness. Salvation is not a human birthright and thus cannot be insisted upon to be distributed fairly to all.

How Is it a Double Predestination?

Firstly, it is a double predestination because there are two aspects to it – election and reprobation. There is no election without reprobation.

Secondly, it is double in intention. Just as God actively chose some to salvation, he actively chose some to damnation. The WCF states that he “ordain[ed] them to dishonor and wrath.” Reprobation is not

merely the consequence or leftover byproduct of election.

While it is double, it must be understood that both aspects are not symmetrical. In the case of election, God must work faith in the hearts of the unbeliever. This is a monergistic work on the part of God alone. In the case of reprobation, God does not work sin in the heart of the unbeliever. God is not the author of sin. Even in the case of God hardening the heart of the sinner, God is not creating fresh sin in the person, but merely withholding the grace that would restrain them from more sin.

The language of the WCF expresses this when it says that God “withholdeth mercy, as He pleaseth, for the glory of His Sovereign power over His creatures, to pass by.”

Conclusion

Double predestination teaches that God actively elected some to salvation and others to damnation. While God is merciful in election, he is just in reprobation. To save the elect, God must work to regenerate them. To condemn the reprobate, God simply leaves them to work out their sin.

Lorraine Better writes, “Although this doctrine is harsh, it is, nevertheless, Scriptural...Calvinists do not shrink from discussing it; yet naturally, because of its awful character, they find no satisfaction in dwelling upon it. They also realize that here men must be particularly careful not to attempt to be wise above what is written, as many are inclined to do when they indulge in presumptuous speculations about matters which are too high for them.” ~ *Pastor*



Catechism for Younger Children

33. What was the sin of our first parents? Eating the forbidden fruit.

34. Who tempted Adam and Eve to this sin? Satan tempted Eve first, and then he used her to tempt Adam.

Worship Service Roster

| <i>Service</i> | <i>This Week (6.10.19)</i> | <i>Next Week (15.10.19)</i> |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Speaker | Glen Lock | Keith Morris |
| Worship Leader | Chris Budiman | Johnson Lim |
| Pianist | Ian Tay | Magdalene Tay |
| Welcomers | John & Adeline Ng | Kim & Jesslyn Leow |
| Offering Stewards | Vincent Chiu, Ken Hong John Tan, Rex Sriharan | Chris Budiman, Micah Chiang John Chandran, Kim Leow |
| Ushers | Wendy Gong, Josephine Austin | Jesslyn Leow, Sharon Sriharan |
| Kitchen Duties | August Ng, Siew Kim Chandran Grace Wang, Carmel Sriharan | Helen Wong, Peggy Woo Jackie Hong |
| PA Duty | Raymond Woo | Ian Tay |
| <i>Prayer Meeting</i> | <i>11 October 2019</i> | <i>18 October 2019</i> |
| Chairman | In Recess | In Recess |
| Pianist | | |

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Please spend some time in quiet meditation and self-examination to prepare yourself to partake of the elements in the Sacrament.
3. The messenger next Lord's Day is Pastor Keith Morris.
4. Cottage Meeting: Saturday, 12 October 2019 at 5 pm for dinner and Bible Study at the Chiu residence. All ages welcome. Please see Vincent Chiu for more details.
5. Daily Manna and Daily Manna Junior (October-December 2019) are available in the foyer.

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| Appointments for the Week | Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance |
| SAT 5:00 pm Cottage Meeting | General Fund - \$2,162.70 (ET - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$250.00 (ET - \$100.00, #888 - \$40.00). Building Fund - \$300.00 (ET - \$300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$2,712.70. Attendance - 117. |
| SUN 9:00 am Sunday School | |
| 10:00 am Worship Service | |
| | *ET: electronic transfer |

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.
Johnson Lim 0402 145 682. Deacons: **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.