



may be called by the ministry of the word,<sup>1</sup> and may experience some general influences of the Spirit,<sup>2</sup> yet never truly come to Christ, and so cannot be saved.<sup>3</sup> Much less can people not professing the Christian religion be saved in any other way whatever, however diligently they may be ordering their lives in accordance with the light of nature and the law of that religion they profess.<sup>4</sup> To assert and maintain that they may is very dangerous and detestable.<sup>5</sup>

3.5: Those of humankind who are appointed beforehand to life, God has chosen in Christ for everlasting glory,<sup>6</sup> before he founded the world, in keeping with his eternal and unchangeable plan, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will. This is from his sheer grace and love, apart from any foresight of faith or good works, or persistence in either of them, or any other creaturely factor, as conditions or causes, influencing him to it.<sup>7</sup> Everything was for the praise of his glorious grace.<sup>8</sup>

10.3: Chosen children who die in childhood, are reborn and saved by Christ through the Spirit,<sup>9</sup> who works when, where and how he pleases;<sup>10</sup> in the same way are all other chosen people who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the word.<sup>11</sup>

3.8: The teaching of this high mystery of appointing beforehand should be treated with special caution and care,<sup>12</sup> so that by paying attention to the will of God revealed in his word, and rendering obedience to it, people may be assured of having been chosen eternally, from the certainty of their effective call.<sup>13</sup> In this way, this teaching will yield cause for praise, respect and wonder at God,<sup>14</sup> and humility, effort, and rich comfort for all who honestly obey the gospel.<sup>15</sup>

**LC 68: Are only the elect effectively called?** *All the elect, and they only are effectively called. Although others may be, and often are, outwardly called by the ministry of the word and have some common operations of the Spirit, they wilfully neglect and hold in contempt the grace offered to them and so are justly left in their unbelief and never truly come to Jesus Christ.*

**LC 13: What has God specially decreed concerning angels and men?** *God, by an eternal and unchangeable decree, solely out of his love and with a view to the praise of his glorious grace to be shown in due time, has elected some angels to glory; and in Christ has chosen some persons to eternal life and ordained all means to this end. He has also, according to his sovereign power and the unsearchable purpose of his own will according to which he extends or withholds favour as he pleases, passed by and foreordained the rest to dishonour and wrath, to be inflicted because of their sin, to the praise of the glory of his justice.*

**SC 7: What are the decrees of God?** *The decrees of God are his eternal plan, according to the purpose of his will, by which for his own glory, he has foreordained whatever comes to pass; (yet in such a manner as to be in no way the author of sin.)*

1. Mt 24:14
2. Mt 7:22; Mt 13:20,21; Heb 6:4,5
3. Jn 6:64-66; Jn 8:24
4. Acts 4:12; Jn 14:6; Eph 2:12; Jn 4:22; Jn 17:3
5. 2 Jn 9-11; 1 Cor 16:22; Gal 1:6-8

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

9. 1 Jn 5:12; Acts 4:12
10. Jn 3:8
11. Lk 18:15,16; Acts 2:38,39; Jn 3:3,5; 1 Jn 5:12; Rom 8:9

12. Rom 9:20; 11:23; Deut 29:29
13. 2 Pet 1:10
14. Eph 1:6; Rom 11:33
15. Rom 11:5,6,11; 2 Pet 1:10; Rom 8:33; Lk 10:20

**Election** flows solely from God's free grace from all eternity (3.5; LC 13). It includes the means as well as the end (3.6; LC 13). How elect infants and other elect persons incapable of being outwardly called by the word are saved (10.3). The value of the doctrine of election and how one may be assured of his election (3.8).

## *U: Unconditional Election*

God does not base His election on anything He sees in the individual. He chooses the elect according to the kind intention of His will (Eph. 1:4-8; Rom. 9:11) without any consideration of merit within the individual. Nor does God look into the future to see who would pick Him. Also, as some are elected into salvation, others are not (Rom. 9:15, 21).