

The 1689 Confession
Worship/Study Guide

Chapter 3 (3.3-3.7)
God's Decree

Day 1 – God chose some for eternal life.

Read 3.3

Scripture: Eph. 1:3-12

Questions:

What is God's aim in choosing a people for himself?

What has God done for those whom he chose?

Catechism:

Q. Did God leave all mankind to perish in a state of sin and misery?

A. No, God purposed to save his people by sending a Redeemer.

Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

Day 2 – The number of the elect is fixed and certain.

Read 3.4

Scripture: John 6:35-39

Questions:

What does Jesus say in this passage about the certainty of election?

How should this comfort the sheep?

Catechism:

Q. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

Day 3 – God chose us according to his own purpose and not for any merit in us.

Read 3.5

Scripture: Rom. 9:10-16

Questions:

What is the basis for God's choice?

How does this protect the concept of grace?

Catechism:

Q. 47. Why do you need Christ as a king?

A. Because I am weak and helpless.

Hymn: "How Sweet and Awesome"

Day 4 – God makes all our actions meaningful by ordaining all the steps to accomplish his purposes.

Read 3.6

Scripture: John 10:1-5, 27; 2 Thes. 2:13; Rom. 10:14-15

Questions:

Should we sit around and wait for God to save us?

Should we sit around and wait for God to mature us?

Should we sit around and wait for God to save others?

Catechism:

Q. Who will escape the wrath of God?

A. Only those who repent of sin, believe in Christ, and lead holy lives as a result.

Q. What is it to believe or have faith in Christ?

A. To trust in Christ alone for salvation.

Hymn: "Out of My Bondage, Sorrow, and Night"

Day 5 – The concept of predestination is surrounded by mystery but ought to humble us, assure us, and cause us to worship.

Read 3.7

Scripture: Rom. 11:33, 2 Pet. 1:10-11

Questions:

How does this truth comfort us?

How does this truth humble us?

How does this truth move us to worship God?

Catechism:

Q. What blessings do sinners who are effectually called receive in this life?

A. The blessings of justification, adoption, and sanctification.

Hymn: "Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right"