

# *Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*

By Loraine Boettner

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I. Introduction.

### **Section I**

II. Statement of the Doctrine

III. God Has a Plan

IV. The Sovereignty of God

V. The Providence of God

VI. The Foreknowledge of God

VII. Outline of Systems

VIII. The Scriptures Are the Final Authority by Which Systems Are to Be Judged

IX. A Warning Against Undue Speculation

### **Section II**

#### **The Five Points of Calvinism**

X. Total Inability

1. Statement of the Doctrine. 2. The Extent and Effects of Original Sin. 3. The Defects in Man's Common Virtues. 4. The Fall of Man. 5. The Representative Principles. 6. The Goodness and Severity of God. 7. Scripture Proof

XI. Unconditional Election

1. Statement of the Doctrine. 2. Proof from Scripture. 3. Proof from Reason. 4. Faith and Good Works are the Fruits, not the Basis of Election. 5. Reprobation. 6. Infralapsarianism and Supralapsarianism. 7. Many are Chosen. 8. A Redeemed World or Race. 9. Vastness of the Redeemed Multitude. 10. The World is Growing Better. 11. Infant Salvation. 12. Summary.

XII. Limited Atonement

1. Statement of the Doctrine. 2. The Infinite Value of Christ's Atonement. 3. The Atonement is limited in Purpose and Application. 4. Christ's Work as a Perfect Fulfillment of the Law. 5. A Ransom. 6. The Divine Purpose in Christ's Sacrifice. 7. The Exclusion of the Non-Elect. 8. The Argument from the Foreknowledge of God. 9. Benefits which Extend to Mankind in General.

### XIII. Efficacious Grace

1. Teaching of the Westminster Confession.
2. Necessity for the Change.
3. An Inward Change Wrought by Supernatural Power.
4. The Effect Produced in the Soul.
5. The Sufficiency of Christ's Work—Evangelicalism.
6. Arminian View of Universal Grace.
7. No Violation of Man's Free Agency.
8. Common Grace.

### XIV. The Perseverance of the Saints

1. Statement of the Doctrine.
2. Perseverance Does Not Depend Upon the Person's Good Works But Upon God's Grace.
3. Though Truly Saved the Christian May Temporarily Backslide and Commit Sin.
4. An Outward Profession of Righteousness not a Guarantee that the Person is a True Christian.
5. Arminian Sense of Insecurity.
6. Purpose of the Scripture Warnings Against Apostasy.
7. Scripture Proof.

## **Section III**

### **Objections Commonly Urged Against the Reformed Doctrine of Predestination**

### XV. That It Is Fatalism

### XVI. That It Is Inconsistent with the Free Agency and Moral Responsibility of Man

1. The Problem of Man's Free Agency.
2. This Objection Bears Equally Against Foreknowledge.
3. Certainty is Consistent with Free Agency.
4. Man's Natural Will is Enslaved to Evil.
5. God Controls the Minds of Men and Gives His People the Will to Come.
6. The Way in Which the Will is Determined.
7. Scripture Proof.

### XVII. That It Makes God the Author of Sin

1. The Problem of Evil.
2. Instances in Which Sin Has Been Overruled for Good.
3. The Fall of Adam Was Included in the Divine Plan.
4. The Result of Adam's Fall.
5. The Forces of Evil Are Under God's Perfect Control.
6. Sinful Acts Occur Only by Divine Permission.
7. Scripture Proof.
8. Comments by Smith and Hodge.
9. God's Grace Is More Deeply Appreciated After the Person Has Been the Victim of Sin.
10. Calvinism Offers a More Satisfactory Solution of the Problem of Evil Than Does Any Other System.

### XVIII. That It Discourages All Motives to Exertion

1. The Means as well as the Ends are Foreordained.
2. Practical Results.

### XIX. That It Represents God As A Respector of Persons, Or As Unjustly Partial

1. Difficulties Faced By All Systems.
2. God Is No Respector of Persons.
3. God Gives to Some What He Withholds From Others.
4. Partiality explained in part by the Fact that God is Sovereign and His Gifts are of Grace.

### XX. That It Is Unfavorable to Good Morality

1. The Means as well as the Ends are Foreordained.
2. Love and Gratitude to God for What He Has Done for Us is the Strongest Possible and Only Permanent Basis for Morality.
3. The Practical Fruits of Calvinism in History are its Best Vindication.

### XXI. That It Precludes a Sincere Offer of the Gospel to the Non-Elect

1. Same Objection Bears Against God's Foreknowledge.
2. The Offer is Sincerely Made.

**XXII. That It Contradicts the Universalistic Scripture Passages**

1. The Terms "Will" and "All."
2. The Gospel is for Jews and Gentiles Alike.
3. The Term "World" is Used in Various Senses.
4. General Considerations.

**Section IV**

**XXIII. Salvation by Grace**

1. Man's Ill-desert.
2. God May give or Withhold Grace as He Pleases.
3. Salvation Not to Be Earned by Man.
4. Scripture Proof.
5. Further Remarks.

**XXIV. Personal Assurance That One Is Among the Elect**

1. Basis for Assurance.
2. Scripture Teaching.
3. Conclusion.

**XXV. Predestination in the Physical World**

1. The Uniformity of Natural Law.
2. Comments by Noted Scientists and Theologians.
3. The Calvinistic System Alone Harmonizes With Modern Science and Philosophy.

**XXVI. A Comparison with the Mohammedan Doctrine of Predestination**

1. Elements Which the Two Doctrines Have in Common.
2. Mohammedan Tendency Toward Fatalism.
3. Christian Doctrine Not Derived from Mohammedanism.
4. The Two Doctrines Contrasted.

**Section V**

**XXVII. The Practical Importance Of The Doctrine**

1. Influence of the Doctrine in Daily Living.
2. A Source of Security and Courage.
3. Calvinistic Emphasis On the Divine Agency in Man's Salvation.
4. Only Calvinism Will Stand All Tests.
5. These Doctrines Not Unreasonable.
6. The Westminster Assembly and the Westminster Confession.
7. These Doctrines Should Be Publicly Taught and Preached.
8. Ordination Vows and the Minister's Obligation.
9. The Presbyterian Church is Truly Broad and Tolerant.
10. The Reason for the Depressed Fortunes of Calvinism Today.

**Section VI**

**XXIX. Calvinism in History**

1. Before the Reformation.
2. The Reformation.
3. Calvinism in England.
4. Calvinism in Scotland.
5. Calvinism in France.
6. Calvinism in Holland.
7. Calvinism in America.
8. Calvinism and Representative Government.
9. Calvinism and Education.
10. John Calvin.
11. Conclusion.

Appendix

Index of Subjects

Index of Authors

Bibliography