



# Let's Read *The Institutes of the Christian Religion, Class 11*

**Book 3: Of the Knowledge of God the Redeemer  
Chapters 21-24**



## Election/Predestination

### I. History of the Doctrine

Paul, Augustine, Augustinians, Luther, Melanchthon, Bucer, Zwingli

Separation of Providence and Predestination in 1559 edition

linking it with soteriology – the way we receive the grace of salvation in Christ

“When you teach free grace and mean it. You are a predestinarian.” (Warfield)

“Election precedes faith as to its divine order, but it is understood by faith.” (Calvin)

## “Where did my faith come from?”

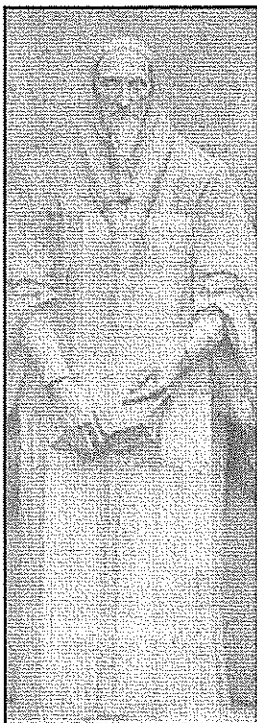
Predestination answers these questions:

- “Where did my faith come from?”
- “Why do some respond to the gospel and others do not?”
  - “Free will” explanation is easier to hear
  - but it does not give a sufficient answer.

### • Definitions

- Absolute – God is the author
  - A decree by which he determines what he will for each man
- Particular/Individual – a general (covenantal) election (Israel) vs. a specific, enduring election (individuals)
- Double –
  - Calvin uses “reprobation” - “Even of the posterity of Abraham some elected and others rejected by special grace.”
    - Ishmael vs. Isaac; Jacob vs. Esau
    - Calvin is clear, does not revel in this, feels the force of it.
- Cause
  - Proximate (evident) cause – man’s sin
  - Ultimate cause – God’s good pleasure

- Means of God's Providence
  - Election
  - Elect from all eternity
  - Called/justified at a certain point in time/life
    - Outward call of the gospel (proclamation)
    - Inward call of the gospel (movement of the Holy Spirit)
- Goal
  - Election – the glory & the grace of God & our sanctification
  - Reprobation – the glory & the righteousness of God & their receiving justice



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128 St. Mary's Church Rd. Abingdon,  
MD 21009

410-569-0289

[www.ncpres.org](http://www.ncpres.org)

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