

### Summary Questions and Analysis Related to Paideia Part 3

Human volition makes the choice in time. Omniscience perceives it as the natural course of human free will and recognizes it as reality. This reality becomes the content of the divine decrees from which foreknowledge is a printout.

Those who are foreknown are the elect of God for whom He developed a predetermined plan through which they would each have equal privilege and equal opportunity to serve Him. Although the elect were foreknown, they were not predetermined.

However, the plan was predetermined since it was sovereignly decreed. Thus, because of divine foreknowledge, God was able to identify the elect and make preparations for their spiritual life in eternity past.

Consequently, election does not become a reality in time until the free-will decision is made to believe in Christ. But, at the moment of salvation, God is already prepared to impute to each new believer a wealth of assets for the execution and operation of the Christian way of life.

The equal opportunity of election is the royal priesthood which becomes a reality at salvation and immediately operational. The equal opportunity of election is God's provision of daily logistical grace support necessary for physical and spiritual function in the hostile environment of the Devil's world.

Although God knew about the decision which would make this a reality in eternity past it is not an historical reality until it occurs in time. However, since He knew it would occur, He constructed a plan which would protect the individual during the period of unbelief between physical birth and spiritual birth.

In addition, He also predetermined a plan for the individual's spiritual life which would grant him the necessary assets to execute the Christian way of life in time and the heavenly way of life in eternity.

The equal privilege of predestination is the baptism of the Holy Spirit which grants assets for function in the eternal state and motivation for service in time. The equal opportunity of predestination is the imputation of a divine power system in which the believer is granted plenipotentiary power and authority to execute the Christian way of life.

Human volition is the key to making election a spiritual reality.

Divine sovereignty decreed that when the historical decision was made, a predetermined plan would be in place to accommodate each member of the new spiritual species. Thus, we observe the following principles:

- a. Although the elect were foreknown, they were not predetermined.
- b. However, the plan was predetermined since it was sovereignly decreed.

With this in mind, we can develop the following logical sequence of decisions made by the sovereignty of God regarding His elect in eternity past.

### The Infralapsarian Order of the Elective Decrees

1. The decree to create all mankind.
2. The decree to permit the Fall.
3. The decree to provide salvation for all mankind.
4. The decree to elect those who believe in Jesus Christ and to leave in just condemnation all who do not believe.
5. The decree to apply salvation to those who believe.

God has decreed the means as well as the ends. Therefore, every thought, decision, and action encountered by a child contributes either positively or negatively upon that child's stream of consciousness, the development of his norms and standards and scale of values, his orientation to authority, establishment morality, right and wrong, good and evil.

The child is held responsible for his bad decision to reject Christ as Savior and must face the ultimate punishment of the Lake of Fire. On the other hand, his parents are held accountable for whatever thoughts, decisions, and actions they may have made that contributed to the child's mental attitude which chose to reject the Gospel.

The intended result of using the harmless yet stinging goad of the rod upon the backside of a child is so that he will have every opportunity to avoid the eternally enduring and unbearably painful punishment of unbelief.

Just as the pedagogue of the Mosaic Law goads the unbeliever into the realization that he is a sinner and needs a Savior, in like manner the pedagogue of parental policies goads the child into submission to authority and the development of genuine humility.

Enforcement of compliance in both areas is described by the use of the Greek noun, *paideia*. Again, the corrected translation of our central passage in:

**Hebrews 12:5** - And so, you yourselves have forgotten the doctrinal instruction which teaches you as sons:

**Proverbs 3:11** - My son, do not reject the chastening [*MÛSAR*] of the Lord; do not loathe His punishment.

**Proverbs 3:12** - For whom the Lord loves, He disciplines like a father to a son in whom he is well pleased.

**Hebrews 12:5b** - My son, stop making light of the Lord's chastisement [*paideia*].

Those who do not remember, from either doctrine or experience, that the Lord will chastise by means of divine discipline those of His household, are ripe for reversionism. The next verb in our passage is the present passive imperative of *ekluo* - *To faint*.