

THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE

LESSON 12 REPROBATION

Reprobation concerns God's relationship to the unelect. But what exactly is God's relationship to the unelect? Did God make them unbelieving? Since they were not chosen, did God create them merely for the sake of condemning them to hell? And is God's reprobation unconditional just like His election unconditional? Is predestination double? Did God actively predestine the unelect for damnation or did He merely pass over the unelect? In this lesson we will find out.

First, a helpful quote explaining the Arminian hardship with reprobation:

*"As a matter of fact the Arminians do not escape any real difficulty here. For since they admit that God has foreknowledge of all things they must explain why He creates those who He foresees will lead sinful lives, reject the Gospel, die impenitent, and suffer eternally in hell. The Arminians really have a more difficult problem here than do the Calvinists; for the Calvinists maintain that the ones whom God thus creates, knowing that they will be lost, are the non-elect who voluntarily choose sin and in whose merited punishment God designs to manifest His justice, while the Arminians must say that God deliberately creates those who He foresees will be such poor, miserable creatures that without serving any good purpose they will bring destruction upon themselves and will spend eternity in hell in spite of the fact that God Himself earnestly wishes to bring them to heaven, and that God shall be forever grieved in seeing them where He wishes they were not. Does not this represent God as acting most foolishly in bringing upon Himself such dissatisfaction and upon some of His creatures such misery when He could at least have refrained from creating those who, He foresaw, would be lost?" (Boettner, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*, 125-26).*

- Reprobation defined

Election may be defined as God's decision in eternity past to set His unconditional love on some according to His free will and save them by His grace.

Reprobation may be defined as God's decision in eternity past to pass over others, leaving them in their sinful state and punishing them accordingly per His perfect justice.

Westminster Confession of Faith- Chapter 3 "Of God's Eternal Decree"

VII. The rest of mankind God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of His own will, whereby He extends or withholds mercy, as He pleases, for the glory of His sovereign power over His creatures, to pass by; and to ordain them to dishonor and wrath for their sin, to the praise of His glorious justice.

- Reprobation in Scripture

- Romans 9:14-24

- 1. God has mercy on whom He desires and He hardens whom He desires

- Vv14-16

- Vv17-18

- 2. Reprobation involves God hardening the wicked

- Examples of God hardening the hearts of the wicked

- Deuteronomy 2:30

- Joshua 11:20

- 1 Samuel 2:25

- 2 Thessalonians 2:11

- Romans 11:7-10

- 3. Reprobation is not double predestination
 - Vv21-24
 - “Vessels of wrath prepared for destruction”
 - “Vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory”

- See also Matthew 25:41; Revelation 13:8; 20:12, 15