



## Sermon Notes—PM

*Decretum Horribile*

**Rev. Danny Hyde, Pastor**

Psalm 139:1–18

Studies in the Canons of Dort #15

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*We conclude our study of the doctrine of predestination tonight. We've learned the basic doctrines of God's justice, love, and mercy that are necessary before we even say a word about predestination. We've learned what predestination to salvation (election) is all about, how we can be assured of it, as well as what predestination to condemnation (reprobation) is all about. The last topic is a practical one: what does election say to grieving parents whose children have died?*

### **Covenant Children**

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

**T**otal Depravity  
**U**nconditional Election  
**L**imited Atonement  
**I**rrresistible Grace  
**P**erseverance of the Saints

### **Parents' Comfort**

## The Canons of the Synod of Dort: Some Facts

- What?* A “canon” (not cannon!) comes from a Greek word for “standard or rule.”
- When?* November 13, 1618–May 9, 1619
- Where?* Dordrecht (shortened, Dort), The Netherlands
- Who?* An international gathering (“synod”) of Reformed theologians, pastors, and elders from the Netherlands, Great Britain, Switzerland, and Germany (the French could not attend due to their Catholic king).
- Why?* To respond to the teaching of James Arminius’ followers on predestination, Christ’s redemption, the sinfulness of humanity, the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation, and the perseverance of the saints.
- How?* There are five “heads” or topics of doctrine that correspond to the original five points of the Remonstrants (so called because they made a *remonstrance*, or “protest”). Each “head” is divided into two parts: 1) the “articles” that state our doctrine, and 2) the “rejection of errors” that state our differences with the Arminian doctrine.

### Outline of the First Head of Doctrine:

#### *Divine Election and Reprobation*

- I. *Common Christian Convictions (articles 1–6)*
  1. Humanity’s sin and condemnation (art. 1)
  2. God’s love in Christ (art. 2)
  3. God’s mercy in preaching (art. 3 cf. RE 9)
  4. Faith in Christ delivers from condemnation (art. 4)
  5. Humanity is guilty for unbelief (art. 5)
  6. Faith is given according to God’s plan (art. 6 cf. RE 8)
- II. *The Doctrine of Election (arts. 7–14)*
  1. Election Defined (art. 7 cf. RE 1, 9)
  2. One kind of election, not many (art. 8 cf. RE 2)
  3. Not based on foreseen qualities (art. 9 cf. RE 4, 5)
  4. Persons not conditions (art. 10 cf. RE 3)
  5. Unchangeable (art. 11 cf. RE 6)
  6. Attainment of assurance (art. 12 cf. RE 7)
  7. Response to assurance (art. 13)
  8. Preaching election (arts. 14)
- III. *The Doctrine of Reprobation (arts. 15–17)*
  1. Reprobation Defined (art. 15)
  2. Reprobation and assurance (art. 16)
  3. Reprobation and children (art. 17)
- IV. *Conclusion: Man’s Response to God’s Revelation (art. 18)*