

The Canons of Dort (1619)

**Second Head of Doctrine
(The Death of Christ, and
the Redemption of Men Thereby)**

LORD'S DAY #21

The true doctrine having been explained, the Synod rejects the errors of those:

Paragraph 1

Leader: Who teach: That God the Father has ordained His Son to the death of the cross without a certain and definite decree to save any, so that the necessity, profitableness, and worth of what Christ merited by His death might have existed, and might remain in all its parts complete, perfect, and intact, even if the merited redemption had never in fact been applied to any person.

People: For this doctrine tends to the despising of the wisdom of the Father and of the merits of Jesus Christ, and is contrary to Scripture. For thus says our Savior: *I lay down my life for the sheep, and I know them.* And the prophet Isaiah says concerning the Savior: *When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of Jehovah shall prosper in his hand.*¹ Finally, this contradicts the article of faith according to which we believe the catholic Christian Church.

Paragraph 2

Leader: Who teach: That it was not the purpose of the death of Christ that He should confirm the new covenant of grace through His blood, but only that He should acquire for the Father the mere right to establish with man such a covenant as He might please, whether of grace or of works.

People: For this is repugnant to Scripture which teaches that *Christ hath become the surety and mediator of a better, that is, the new covenant, and that a testament is of force where there hath been death.*²

¹ John 10:15, 27; Is. 53:10

² Heb. 7:22; 9:15, 17