

Because God has predestined his elect to salvation and has instituted the preaching of his Word as the means of salvation, therefore we must go on preaching and not be silent.

I. Faulty Human Reasoning:

- A. God Has Predestined, Therefore I Can Relax and Let Him Save Them
- B. We Can Better Motivate People to Evangelism by Weakening the Doctrine of Predestination

II. Biblical, Godly Reasoning:

- A. Go on Speaking and Do Not Be Silent Because . . . (Acts 18:9–10)
 - 1. I Am With You (Matt 28:20)
 - 2. No One Will Attack You to Harm You (Matt 10:28; John 16:33)
 - 3. I Have Many People in This City
- B. Paul's Obedient Response (Acts 18:11)

III. Applications: Go on Speaking and Do Not Be Silent Because . . .

- A. Jesus Has All Authority and He Is With You (Matt 28:18–20)
- B. The Harvest is Plentiful (Matt 9:37)
- C. There are Still More to Be Saved (2 Peter 3:9)
- D. God has Predestined Some to Eternal Life (Eph 1:4–5; Rom 8:29–30; 9:16; WCF 3.1, 3.6, 5.2)
- E. Jesus' Sheep Follow His Voice (John 10:4–5, 27–30)
- F. Jesus Speaks and Saves Through the Proclamation of His Word (Rom 10:13–15, 17; WCF 14.1)

WCF 3.1. God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass: yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.

Reflection and Application Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

- 1. What are the reasons God gives to Paul to keep preaching the gospel in Corinth? How does this apply to us today?
- 2. Does believing in the sovereignty of God in predestination make you more or less motivated for evangelism? According to the Bible, should the doctrine of predestination encourage or discourage evangelism?
- 3. According to the Bible, does God's sovereignty over all things negate the free choice or responsibility of his creatures to respond to the gospel?