

Calvinism - Part 4

Predestination and Foreknowledge

Introduction:

- A. Predestination and foreknowledge go hand in hand.
- B. Calvinists believe that since God predestined and foreknew all that comes to pass – cannot be otherwise.
- C. What does the Bible teach about these two subjects?

Discussion:

I. Calvinistic Predestination Versus Bible Predestination

- A. Calvinists teach (WCOF ch. 3, sect. 1)
 - 1. Every event predetermined by God (cf. Scot and the judge)
 - 2. Each person's salvation or damnation is predetermined by God.
- B. Bible teaches (Eph. 1:3-13)
 - 1. The means of salvation not the persons.
 - 2. We can choose to accept or reject the means.

II. Calvinistic Foreknowledge Versus Bible Foreknowledge

- A. Calvinist teach since God foreknows all things, he foreordains all things.
 - 1. Since God foreknew who would be save or lost, it cannot be otherwise.
 - 2. Universalist make same argument about all men.
- B. We must admit that some things of God are beyond man's comprehension (Rom. 11:33,34)
 - 1. We can only know what God has revealed about himself.
 - 2. Yet, many things revealed we must accept without understanding.
- C. Some things God has revealed about himself that seem contradictory to our finite minds.
 - 1. God is infinite in power (Luke 1:37; Rev. 19:6)
 - a. Yet, he cannot lie (Tit. 1:2; Heb. 6:18)
 - b. Can he make a 2 hills without a valley?
 - c. Can he made an object so heavy that he cannot lift it?
 - 2. God is infinite in knowledge and wisdom (1 John 3:20)
 - a. But, can he decline to know some things in advance?
 - b. Apparently so (Gen. 18:20, 21; 22:11-12; Jer. 7:31; Ex. 32:14)
 - c. Jesus had all attributes of God, yet does not know something (Mark 13:32)
 - 3. We can only conclude that God in his infinite power, has chosen not to foreknow things that would interfere with the free-agency of man.

Conclusion:

- A. In our efforts to not limit God's knowledge, we must be careful not to limit his power over own attributes.
- B. Let us accept what is revealed and admit we can believe it all without understanding it all.