

Exodus #68  
The Moral Law

Lesson #20  
Afterthoughts – Part III  
“How do I know the will of God?”

Should I take this job?  
Should I marry this person?  
Should I attend this school or  
that school?

**Deuteronomy 29:29**

“<sup>29</sup> The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.”

DEUS (God) ABSONDITUS (Hidden)

DEUS (God) REVALATUS (Revealed)

The Decretive Will of God  
(To Decree)

or  
“Efficacious Will.”

**Westminster Confession Chapter 3**

*Section 1:* From all eternity and by the completely wise and holy purpose of his own will, God has freely and unchangeably ordained whatever happens. This ordainment does not mean, however, that God is the author of sin (he is not), that he represses the will of his created beings, or that he takes away the freedom or contingency of secondary causes. Rather, the will of created beings and the freedom and contingency of secondary causes are established by him.

Section 2: Although God knows whatever may or can happen under all possible circumstances, he has not ordered anything because he foresaw it in the future as something which would happen under such circumstances.

**Acts 15:18**

“<sup>18</sup> Says the Lord, who makes these things known from long ago.”

**Ephesians 3:11**

“<sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Hebrews 6:17**

“<sup>17</sup> In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose....”

**Matthew 10:29-30**

“<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

“The free actions of men are also predestined by God. Please note these acts are both *free* and *predestined*.”

**Acts 2:23**

“<sup>23</sup> This Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.”

**Acts 4:27-28**

“<sup>27</sup> For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.”

The Preceptive Will of God

Preceptive – Law Revealed

John Calvin

“Where God closes His mouth I will desist from inquiry.”

R. C. Sproul

“The hidden will of God is none of your business.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

“<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Psalm 1:1-3

“<sup>1</sup> How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> And he will be like a tree {firmly} planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.”

**The Decretive will of God is hidden to us until after the fact.**

**The Preceptive will of God  
is the revealed will which is  
unveiled within Scripture.**

**Do not use hind sight of the  
Decretive Will of God to  
justify the breaking of the  
Revealed Will of God.**

**The Preceptive Will  
reveals the character of  
God and what most  
pleases Him.**