

The Canons of Dort (1619)

**First Head of Doctrine
(Divine Election and Reprobation)**

REJECTION OF ERRORS

LORD'S DAY #13

Leader: The true doctrine concerning election and reprobation having been explained, the Synod rejects the errors of those who teach:

Paragraph 5

Who teach: That the incomplete and non-decisive election of particular persons to salvation occurred because of a foreseen faith, conversion, holiness, godliness, which either began or continued for some time; but that the complete and decisive election occurred because of foreseen perseverance unto the end in faith, conversion, holiness, and godliness; and that this is the gracious and evangelical worthiness, for the sake of which he who is chosen is more worthy than he who is not chosen; and that therefore faith, the obedience of faith, holiness, godliness, and perseverance are not fruits of the unchangeable election unto glory, but are conditions which, being required beforehand, were foreseen as being met by those who will be fully elected, and are causes without which the unchangeable election to glory does not occur.

People: **This is repugnant to the entire Scripture, which constantly inculcates this and similar declarations: Election is “not of works, but of him that calleth.” “And as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.” “He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy.” “Ye did not choose me, but I chose you.” “But if it is by grace, it is no more of works.” “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son .”**¹

¹ Rom. 9:11; Acts 13:48; Eph. 1:4; John 15:16; Rom. 11:6; 1 John 4:10