



## **1. Preliminary Consideration Re: Predestination & Election**

### **A.**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

### **B.**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

## **2. Biblical Assertions Re: Predestination & Election**

### **A. The Words**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

### **B.**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

**C.**

1)

2)

### **3. Key Elements of Predestination & Election**

**A.**

**B.**

**C.**

**D.**

### **4. Our Problems with Predestination & Election**

**A.**

**B.**

**C.**

### **5. The Right Response to Predestination & Election**

**A.**

**B.**

**C.**

**D.**





# Our Salvation

A Systematic Study of Soteriology



# 1. Preliminary Considerations

## A. The Authority of God's Word

### 1) The Claim

**2 Peter 1:20** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.



# 1. Preliminary Considerations

## A. The Authority of God's Word

### 2) The Authentication

**Isaiah 44:7** Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. **8** Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."







# 1. Preliminary Considerations

## A. The Authority of God's Word

### 4) Clear Revelation

**John 12:48** The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. **49** For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.



# 1. Preliminary Considerations

## A. The Authority of God's Word

### 5) Reveals Unseen Realities

**Proverbs 21:30** No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the LORD. **31** The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD.



# 1. Preliminary Considerations

## A. The Authority of God's Word

### 6) It ALL Must be Accepted

**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is

breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, **17** so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**Psalms 50:16** But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to recite my statutes or take my covenant on your lips? **17** For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you."



# 1. Preliminary Considerations

## B. Our Temporal Focus

### 1) Have to Work to Consider the Unseen

#### **2 Corinthians 4:18**

look not to the things seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient but the things that are unseen are eternal.

**Colossians 3:1** If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.



# 1. Preliminary Considerations

## B. Our Temporal Focus

### 2) We Fail to Ponder God's Oversight

**Isaiah 22:8** He has taken away the covering of Judah. In that day you looked to the weapons of the House of the Forest, **9** and you saw that the breaches of the city of David were many. You collected the waters of the lower pool, **10** and you counted the houses of Jerusalem, and you broke down the houses to fortify the wall. **11** You made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But you did not look to him who did it, or see him who planned it long ago.



# 1. Preliminary Considerations

## B. Our Temporal Focus

### 3) We Exalt the Human over the Divine

**Proverbs 16:1** The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. 2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit. 3 Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established. ... 9 The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.



## 2. Biblical Assertions

### A. The Words

- 1) Gk: **elektos**: [ESV] “Elect” / “Chosen”  
> Picked Out or Selected [ahead of time]

**Romans 9:11** though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— **12** she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”



**Romans 11:5** So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.

**6** But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

**7** What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened,

**2 Peter 1:10**

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.



## 2. Biblical Assertions

### A. The Words

2) Gk: **proorizo**: “Predestined” / “Decreed”

**Romans 8:30** And those **ed Before**

whom he called, as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ...**11** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will



## 2. Biblical Assertions

### A. The Words

3) Gk: *thelema*: [ESV] “Will” / “Desire”



## 2. Biblical Assertions

### A. The Words

3) Gk: *thelema*: [ESV] “Will” / “Desire”

Prescriptive Will

Decretive Will

Revealed Will

Secret Will

Moral Will

Sovereign Will



## 2. Biblical Assertions

### A. The Words

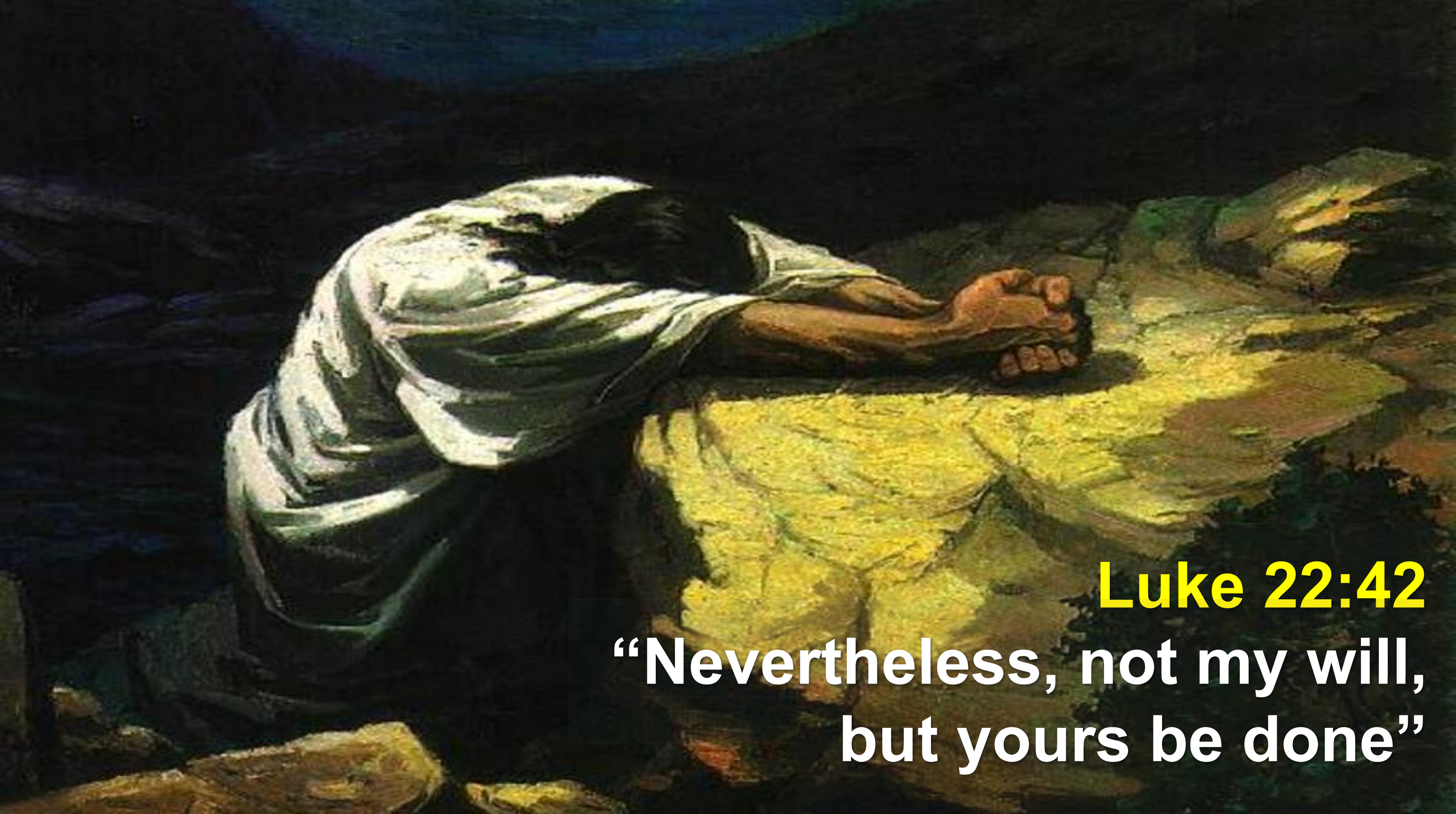
#### 3) Gk: *thelema*: [ESV] “Will” / “Desire”

**Genesis 2:17** of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat

**Exodus 20:17** You shall not covet...

**Isaiah 14:24** The LORD of hosts has sworn: “As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand... **27** For the Lord has purposed, and who shall annul it?”





**Luke 22:42**

**“Nevertheless, not my will,  
but yours be done”**



## 2. Biblical Assertions

### B. What About Evil Events?

#### 1) All-Encompassing

**Lamentations 3:37** Who has spoken

and it came to pass?  
commanded it?  
mouth of the LORD?  
bad come? **39**  
complain, a man  
of his sins?

**Amos 3:6** Is a trumpet blown in a city,  
and the people are not afraid? Does  
disaster come to a city, unless the LORD  
has done it? **7** “For the Lord GOD does  
nothing without revealing his secret to  
his servants the prophets.



## 2. Biblical Assertions

### B. What About Evil Events?

#### 2) E.g.: Evils of Christ's Crucifixion

**Acts 2:22** “Men of Nazareth, all you who are witnesses of these mighty works through him in Jerusalem, you know— **23** this Jesus, the definite plan of God foretold by the prophets, was crucified and buried

**Acts 4:27** 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, **28** to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.



## 2. Biblical Assertions

### B. What About Evil Events?

#### 3) God's Overarching Good

**Genesis 50:20** As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.



## 2. Biblical Assertions

### B. What About Evil Events?

#### 4) Principle for Us (and for God)

**Romans 8:28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.



## 2. Biblical Assertions

### C. Re: Our Salvation

#### 1) God's Prescriptive Will

##### **2 Peter 3:9**

slow to fulfill his promise to some count is patient to wishing that perish, but reach reper

##### **Ezekiel 18:23**

any pleasure in death of the w declares the L and not rather should turn fro and live?

**1 Timothy 2:3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.



## 2. Biblical Assertions

### C. Re: Our Salvation

#### 2) God's Decretive Will

**Romans 11:25** I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles have come in.

**Matthew 7:13** "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many."



**Philippians 1:28** This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. **29** For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, **30** engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**Acts 13:48** And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.



**Acts 18:9** And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, **10** for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”



# 3. Key Elements of Predestination

## A. The Problem of Sin

- Its Severity

**Ephesians 2:1** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ... **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast.



**Mark 10:26** And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" **27** Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

**1 Corinthians 2:14**

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.



**Acts 11:17** If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" **18** When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."



### 3. Key Elements of Predestination

#### B. God's Choices are Non-Contingent

- Free and Unhindered Decisions

**John 15:16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ... **19** If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.



**Deuteronomy 7:7** It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, **8** but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers

**2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. **14** To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.



### 3. Key Elements of Predestination

#### C. Our Decisions are Contingent on His

- Dependent & Responsive

**John 6:35** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. **36** But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. **37** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ... **44** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.



***John 11:43***

*When he had  
said these  
things, he cried  
out with a loud  
voice, "Lazarus,  
come out."*





**John 10:24** So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” **25** Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, **26** but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. **27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.



# 3. Key Elements of Predestination

## D. Sinners are Culpable for Their Choices

### Romans 1:20

invisible attributes  
namely, his eternal  
and divine nature  
been clearly perceived  
ever since the creation  
the world, in that  
that have been  
they are without

### Romans

because  
and impious  
you are sinners  
wrath for  
the day of  
God's righteous  
judgment  
revealed.

**Acts 18:5** When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. **6** And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent."



# 4. Our Problems with Predestination

## A. We Hate Being Incapable

**John 9:39** Jesus came into this not see may so become blind. near him heard him, "Are we a them, "If you w no guilt; but no your guilt rema

**Luke 18:11** The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **12** I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' **13** But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'



# 4. Our Problems with Predestination

## B. We Hate Being Dependent

**Psalms 2:1** Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? **2** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, **3** “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”





**William Ernest Henley**  
1849 to 1903

*It matters not how straight the gate;  
How charged with the punishments the  
scroll,  
I am the master of my fate;  
I am the captain of my soul.*



**Hebrews 1:3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

**Colossians 1:17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**Acts 17:25** nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

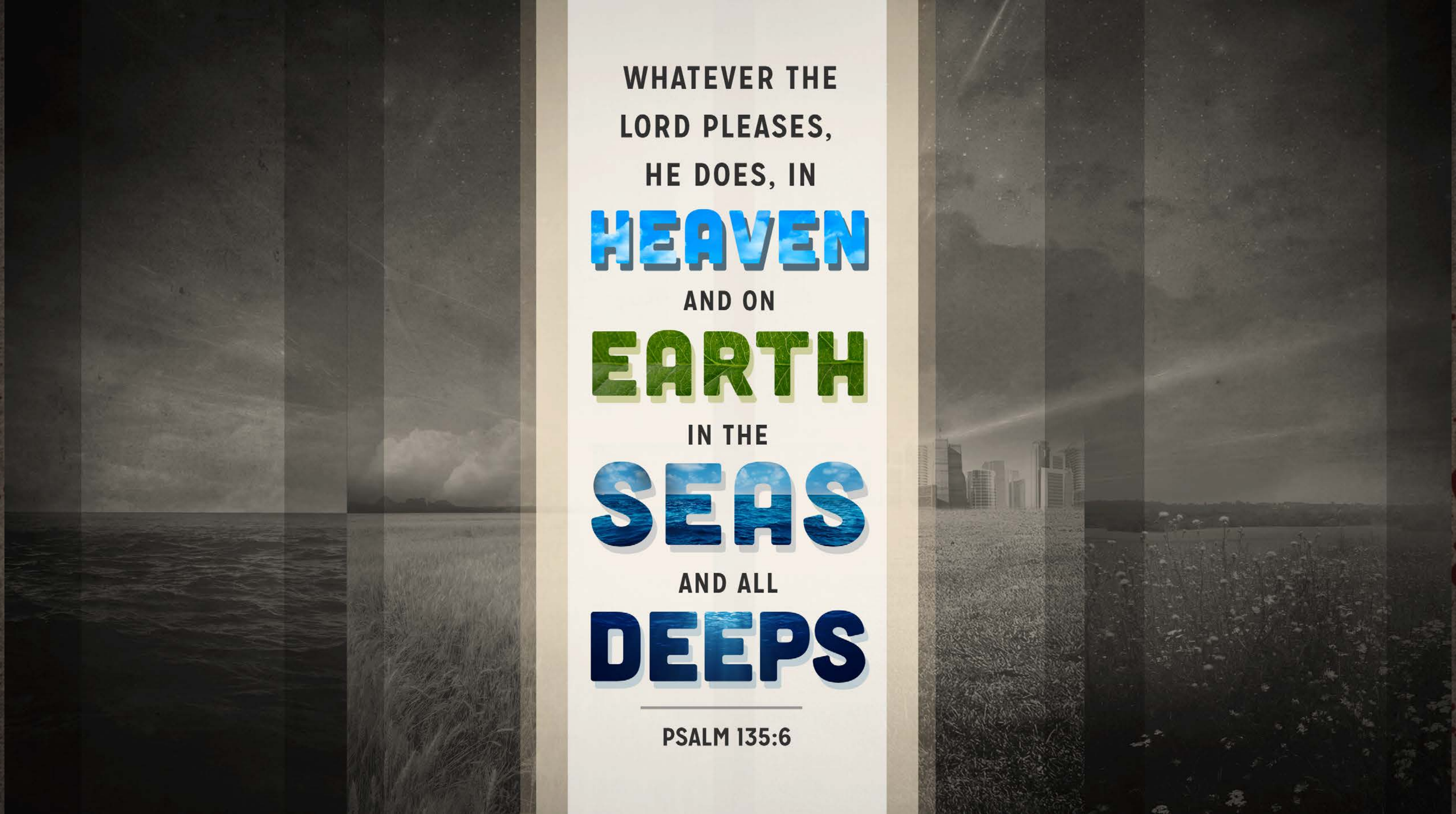


# 4. Our Problems with Predestination

## C. We Chafe a God's Autonomy

**Isaiah 46:9** I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, **10** declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'





WHATEVER THE  
LORD PLEASES,  
HE DOES, IN  
**HEAVEN**  
AND ON  
**EARTH**  
IN THE  
**SEAS**  
AND ALL  
**DEEPS**

---

PSALM 135:6





**I know that you can do**

**ALL THINGS**

**and that no purpose of yours  
can be thwarted.**

**JOB 42:2**



# 5. The Right Response to this Doctrine

## A. Stop Fighting It

**Romans 9:19** You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” **20** But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” **21** Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?



# 5. The Right Response to this Doctrine

## B. No Complaining

**Job 40:1** And the LORD said to Job:  
**2** “Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it.” **3** Then Job answered the LORD and said:  
**4** “Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth.



# 5. The Right Response to this Doctrine

## C. Keep Working, Deciding, & Evangelizing

**2 Corinthians 5:11** Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ... **18** All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation ... **20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.



# 5. The Right Response to this Doctrine

## D. Keep Praying & Trusting God

### **Psalms 127:1**

LORD builds the city,  
those who build it  
in vain. Unless the  
LORD watches over the  
city, the watchman stays  
in vain.

**Psalms 33:16** The king is not saved  
by his great army; a warrior is not  
delivered by his great strength. **17** The  
war horse is a false hope for salvation,  
and by its great might it cannot rescue.  
**18** Behold, the eye of the LORD is on  
those who fear him, on those who  
hope in his steadfast love,





# Our Salvation

A Systematic Study of Soteriology