

CALVINISM AND THE WILL OF GOD

1 THESS. 4:3

LONDON BAPTIST CONFSSION
1689



BEYOND THE FUNDAMENTALS

CHAPTER 3; OF GOD'S DECREE

Paragraph 1. God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass;¹ yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin nor hath fellowship with any therein;² nor is violence offered to the will of the creature, nor yet is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established;³ in which appears His wisdom in disposing all things, and power and faithfulness in accomplishing His decree.⁴

1. Isa. 46:10; Eph. 1:11; Heb. 6:17; Rom. 9:15,18

2. James 1:13; 1 John 1:5

3. Acts 4:27,28; John 19:11

4. Num. 23:19; Eph. 1:3-5

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (KJV)

³ For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

Basic Definition of Calvinism:

Clever post-hoc rationalizations for why scripture means something other than what it says.

Ideologically possessed people will accept a systematic complex of ideas that are self-contradictory, and they will be blind to the contradictions. They will only see information as salient that agrees with their ideology. All contradictory evidence will be ignored, avoided, or a post hoc rationalization will be invented to “explain away” the contradiction.

Cognitive dissonance

- when a person holds two or more contradictory beliefs, ideas or values, or participates in an action that goes against one of these three.

2 Timothy 2:24–26 (KJV)

²⁴ And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient,

²⁵ In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

²⁶ And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

A Paradigm has Three (3) Functions

- Respond to Reality
- Conserve the Paradigm
- Resolve Dissonance

Contradictions, Novelty, and Dissonance can either result in paradigmatic modification, or conservation of the paradigm through delusion.

Delusion is most likely to happen when the dissonance is paradigm-shattering, and the person has a vested interest in maintaining belief in and support for the paradigm.

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Dissonance: committing fornication is obviously NOT the will of God while the LBC1689 ch3 says that everything that comes to pass is decreed by the will of God. What will you do?

- A. Modify the paradigm to include the concept that some things are not the will of God in order to align with scripture.
- B. Invent a post hoc rationalization to make this text “mean” or “teach” something other than what it plainly says.

Delusion: There are two wills of God. Decretive and Preceptive.

What is the motivation to say that God decreed something that scripture doesn't tell us God decreed?

- External teaching?
- Systematic theology?
- Paradigmatic thinking?

(Where do I come to the place that says God decreed all things?)

(By what means to I come to add to my list of propositions the concept that God decreed things that scripture doesn't say God decreed?)

(Why the hang-up with the word "decree"?)

Why is the concept that God decreed all things assumed as default prior to approaching scripture?

(show me where it says he didn't decree)

- text-book eisegesis
- we should not add something to our list of considerations/assumptions/etc... unless it is explicitly stated. This is the position of humility where we let God tell us instead of us telling God.

What is the origin of that concept being the "default" assumption?

Examining the Preceptive Will of God

*FROM R.C. SPROUL * MAY 01, 2010 * CATEGORY: R.C. SPROUL*

The preceptive will of God relates to the revealed commandments of God's published law. When God commands us not to steal, this decree does not carry with it the immediate necessity of consequence. Where it was not possible for the light to refuse to shine in creation, it is possible for us to refuse to obey this command. In a word, we steal.

We must be careful not to make too much of this distinction. We must not be lulled into thinking that the preceptive will of God is divorced from His decretive will. It is not as though the preceptive will has no effect or no necessity of consequence. We may have the power to disobey the precept. We do not have the power to disobey it with impunity. Neither can we annul it by our disregard. His law remains intact whether we obey or disobey it.

In one sense, the preceptive will is part of the decretive will. God sovereignly and efficaciously decrees that His Law be established. It is established and nothing can disestablish it. His Law exists as surely as the light by which we read it.

Coram Deo: During the next few days, read Psalm 119, which praises the preceptive will of God as revealed in His written Word.

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/examining-preceptive-will-god/>

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ In every thing **give thanks: for this is the will of God** in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Psalms 40:8 (KJV)

⁸ **I delight to do thy will**, O my God: Yea, thy law *is* within my heart.

Psalms 143:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ **Teach me to do thy will**; for thou *art* my God: Thy spirit *is* good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

Matthew 7:21 (KJV)

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but **he that doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven.

Mark 3:35 (KJV)

³⁵ For **whosoever shall do the will of God**, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

John 7:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ **If any man will do his will**, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of myself.

Ephesians 5:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **understanding what the will of the Lord is**.

Colossians 1:9 (KJV)

⁹ For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the **knowledge of his will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Colossians 4:12 (KJV)

¹² Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, **that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God**.

Hebrews 10:36 (KJV)

³⁶ For ye have need of patience, that, **after ye have done the will of God**, ye might receive the promise.

Hebrews 13:21 (KJV)

²¹ Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:2 (KJV)

² That he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh to the lusts of men, **but to the will of God**.

1 John 2:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Jeremiah 7:31 (KJV)

³¹ And they have built the high places of Tophet, which *is* in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded *them* not, neither came it into my heart.

Jeremiah 19:5 (KJV)

⁵ They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire *for* burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake *it*, neither came *it* into my mind:

Jeremiah 32:35 (KJV)

³⁵ And they built the high places of Baal, which *are* in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through *the fire* unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

English Standard Version (ESV)

Jer 19:5

and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or decree, nor did it come into my mind—

If God decreed all things, whatsoever comes to pass of his own will, then...

- There is NOTHING that is not the will of God
- There is no such thing as rebellion
- everything anyone says or does is the will of God
- the will of every man is the will of God
- each person is just an extension of God
- each person essentially is God, but without the attributes
 - immutability – cannot be changed
 - omniscience – all knowing
 - omnipresence – exists everywhere
 - omnipotence – all powerful
- all other people are God. You are them and they are you with an over-arching synchronized will
 - sounds a lot like Hinduism
- Belief in a proposition is a matter of revelation, not persuasion
 - this alleviates the absolute determinist from having to have credible arguments that justify his position
 - you don't believe them because you're not allowed to, not because the reasons are insufficient

Romans 12:2 (KJV)

² And be not conformed to this world:
but be ye transformed by the
renewing of your mind, that ye may
prove what *is* that good, and
acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

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