

Election & Conversion

Syllabus and Questions

A. The course content

1. The Human Predicament – *Conversion*~Introduction & Chapter 1
2. From Eternity – *Creation*~Chapter 2
3. The Need for Divine Help – *Predestination*~Introduction & Chapter 1
4. Divine Election – *Predestination*~Chapter 2, 3 & 6
5. Ancient Heresies – BookofConcord.org~FOC Art. 11, *Predestination*~Chapter 7
6. Election and the Synodical Conference – *Predestination*~Chapter 8
7. Results of our Election – *Predestination*~Chapter 5 & 9
8. Substance of Conversion – *Conversion*~Chapters 2 & 3
9. The Bondage of the Will – *Conversion*~Chapters 4 & Bondage Excerpt
10. The Means of Conversion – *Conversion*~Chapters 5 & 6
11. Effects of Conversion – *Conversion*~Chapters 7 & 8
12. European Assaults on Conversion – *Conversion*~Chapters 9 & 10
13. False Teachings in America – *Conversion*~Chapter 11 & 12

B. What we will try to learn

1. What election is
2. What our election does for us
3. Errors associated with election
1. What conversion is
2. Why only God can effect conversion
3. Results of conversion
4. False teachings about conversion

C. How to prepare for each session

1. Read the chapters from the book.
2. Answer the questions on the handouts.
3. Consider the issues that are being raised by the readings.

D. Questions for the 13 sessions

1. The Human Predicament

1. Why is our belief in the six-day creation not affected by the discoveries of the sciences?
2. Why did the fall into sin violate the first commandment?
3. What was God's curse on mankind? Be specific.
4. What is the evidence of man's total depravity?
5. What does it mean to be spiritually dead?
6. What does man's spiritual blindness imply?
7. What are the two most frightful things about God's judgment?

2. From Eternity

1. What does it mean to say that God is one?
2. What is eternity?
3. Why can't eternity be like time?
4. What does the Son being begotten by the Father mean?
5. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit "proceeds from" the Father and the Son?
6. What was involved in the decree of creation?
7. Why was God's decree of redemption necessary?
8. What is the difference between objective justification and universal justification?

3. The Need for Divine Help

1. What does “to argue with God” mean?
2. Why do people think that God’s plans are foolish?
3. What is “natural religion”?
4. What is “the appearance of godliness”?
5. What does “to seek God in the wrong places” mean?

4. Divine Election

1. Why is predestination called “election”?
2. What are the causes of election?
3. Why are the merits of Christ central to election?
4. What is the nature of God’s foreknowledge?
5. Why is human merit not involved in election?
6. Why is no one predestined to hell?
7. What is involved in predestination?

5. Ancient Heresies

1. Give some examples of Old Testament people who doubted God.
2. Why did Zechariah doubt God?
3. Who was Pelagius?
4. What is the essence of the Pelagian heresy?
5. Who was John Calvin?
6. What do the letters in TULIP stand for?
7. Who was Philip Melancthon?
8. Why was the phrase *intuitu fidei* a problem?

6. Election and the Synodical Conference

1. Who was Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm Walther?
2. Who was Friedrich A. Schmidt?
3. What was the Synodical Conference?
4. What sparked the election controversy?
5. Why did the Ohio Synod leave the Synodical Conference?
6. What were the problems among the Norwegian Lutherans?
7. Why was the relationship between the Missouri Synod and the American Lutheran Church troubling?
8. What were the underlying causes of the collapse of the Synodical Conference?

7. Results of our Election

1. Why do people find the doctrine of election troubling?
2. What doctrines of Scripture assure us of our salvation?
3. Why do we need to warn people not to be careless about their faith?
4. How is election our comfort in times of trial?
5. How can election promote false faith?
6. What is the relationship between election and conversion?
7. Are we saved by God's election or by our faith?

8. Substance of Conversion

1. What motivates God to save people?
2. Why did the Savior need to be truly human?
3. Why did the Savior need to be truly God?
4. Why is vicarious atonement called “passive obedience”?
5. If God’s justification is universal, why aren’t all saved?
6. What are essential elements of saving faith?
7. How does faith save?

9. The Bondage of the Will

1. What does *opinio legis* lead people to do?
2. Why are these actions inadequate?
3. How can those who know the Scriptures still be spiritually blind?
4. What is the nature of spiritual death?
5. Does man have a free will?
6. From where do Luther's thunderbolts come?
7. Describe one of Luther's thunderbolts.
8. Describe another of Luther's thunderbolts.

10. The Means of Conversion

1. Why does conversion need to change our nature?
2. What are the broader and narrower senses of repentance?
3. What does regeneration mean in the spiritual sense?
4. Why must children also be converted?
5. What is the purpose of the Law?
6. What are the means of grace?
7. What does the efficacy of the means of grace mean?
8. When can the Holy Spirit be resisted?

11. Effects of Conversion

1. What does peace with God mean?
2. What does access to God entail?
3. From what 4 things does conversion make us free?
4. What does our new life in Christ consist of?
5. How does sanctification differ from justification?
6. What does “continuously converted” mean?
7. What are the two extremely dangerous sins?
8. How can you be sure that you will remain a believer?

12. European Assaults on Conversion

1. What is the “natural law defense”?
2. List several of the false teachings that flow from Pelagianism.
3. What organizations teach forms of Pelagianism today?
4. How does Semi-Pelagianism differ from Pelagianism?
5. How does synergism differ from Semi-Pelagianism?
6. What is the correct role of the Christian church?
7. How does Calvinism get conversion wrong?
8. How did Melancthon become involved with synergism?

13. False Teachings in America

1. According to Arminianism, on what does God base His predestination?
2. What is Pietism?
3. What was the Great Awakening?
4. How did Revivalism differ from the Great Awakening?
5. Why do the Roman Catholics deny total depravity?
6. Why do the Arminian churches deny total depravity?
7. Explain how decision theology works.
8. What is Universalism?