

PREVAILING LOVE

A STUDY ON DIVINE PREDESTINATION



Aim:

Enlarge and humble our hearts to stand in greater awe of God and rejoice more intently in His love.

Overview

INTRODUCTION
Agapēology

THE WILL: FREE OR FETTERED
Divine Sovereignty and Human
Responsibility

ELECTION
Chosen in and for Christ

REPROBATION
Unchosen: Clearing
Misconceptions and Clarifying
the Gospel

PREDESTINATION

- Measuring this Love
- Meditating on this Love
- Moving on this Love

CONCLUSION
Delighting in God's Prevailing
Love

Agapēology

An Introduction to Divine Predestination

"The Scripture everywhere represents it, as though the great things Christ did and suffered, were in the most direct and proper sense from exceeding love to us."

Jonathan Edwards

"Predestination is often regarded as a harsh and forbidding doctrine, but ... predestination and love go together."

Leon Morris

"God's love always comes first and awakens man's love in response. ... Therein lies the profound significance of the idea of predestination: man has not selected God, but God has elected man."

Anders Nygren

The Importance of Love

"We cannot assume that the way we use the word *love* in a modern western community is the way it was used in the Bible. Nor can we assume that our current use of it gives the word its most Christian or most meaningful definition."

Leon Morris

The Difficulty of Love

"I do not think that what the Bible says about the love of God can long survive at the forefront of our thinking if it is abstracted from the sovereignty of God, the holiness of God, the wrath of God, the providence of God, or the personhood of God—to mention only a few nonnegotiable elements of basic Christianity."

D. A. Carson

"In generations when almost everyone believed in the justice of God, people sometimes found it difficult to believe in the love of God. The preaching of the love of God came as wonderful good news. Nowadays if you tell people that God loves them, they are unlikely to be surprised."

D. A. Carson

"The doctrine of the love of God is sometimes portrayed within Christian circles as much easier and more obvious than it really is, and this is achieved by overlooking some of the distinctions the Bible itself introduces when it depicts the love of God."

D. A. Carson

The Distinctions of Love

"We usually assume that everybody knows what the word means, and that it has a generally agreed-upon meaning. But I am not at all sure that this idea is justified, because the word *love* can be understood in any one of a multitude of ways."

Leon Morris

Distinctions of Love

1. The peculiar love of the Father for the Son, and of the Son for the Father
2. God's providential love over all that he has made
3. God's salvific stance toward his fallen world
4. God's particular, effective, selecting love toward his elect
5. God's provisional or conditional love toward his own covenant people

The sum of salvation in Christ is this:
God's prevailing love.

Enlarge and humble our hearts to stand in greater awe of God and rejoice more intently in His love.