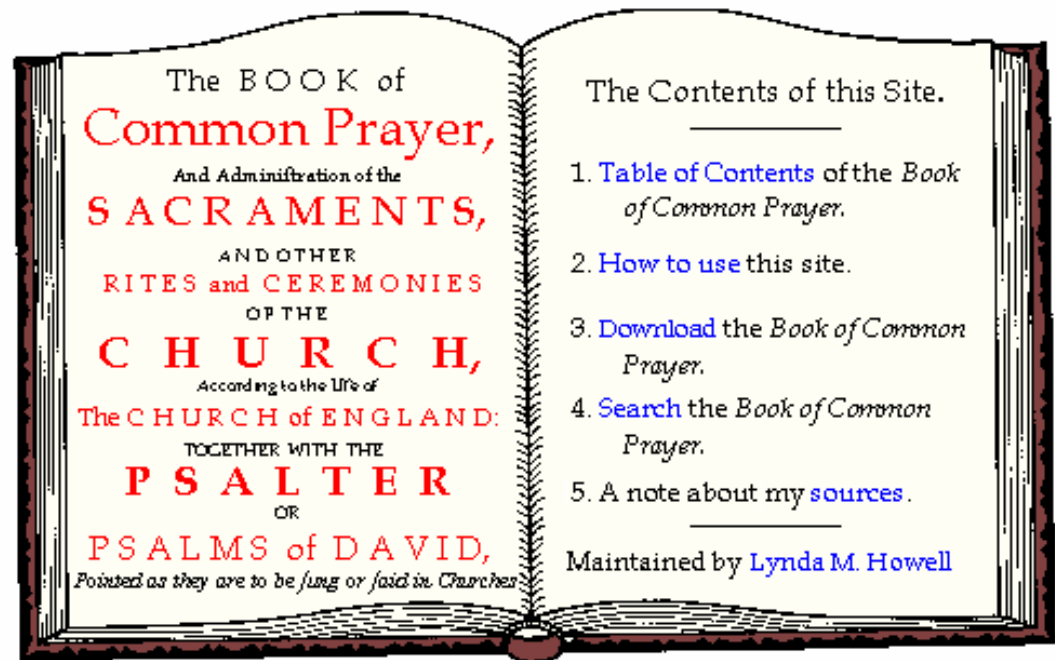


# Overview of the 39 Articles of Religion

Church of the Ascension Fall 2006

Class 04

David Laughlin



# Outline

- **Introduction to the Reformation in England**
- **Catholic Beliefs (articles 1-8)**
- **Salvation: Our Perspective (articles 9-16)**
- **Salvation: God's Perspective (17/18)**
- **Church and Councils (19-24)**
- **The Sacraments (articles 25-30)**
- **Church Discipline (articles 31-36)**
- **Church and State (articles 37-39)**

**Summary**

Last time we saw that we are all born in sin and by our own **natural** abilities are unable to do anything pleasing to God.

This leaves us in a predicament: how can we be saved?

The Bible tells us that we must be born again, **regenerated**: this enlivens us and enables us to exercise **faith and repentance**: these being gifts from God.

True Faith and Repentance are always accompanied by and followed by good works which are pleasing to God.

So, the next question which naturally comes to mind is: **who are the ones who God regenerates**? There have been essentially two answers to this:

- Those whom God loves before time and Chooses (**Elect**)
- Those whom God **foresees will respond** to the good news

1. Those whom God loves before time (**Elect**)
2. Those whom God **foresees will respond** to the good news

The first answer was the answer given by Augustine, Aquinas, etc.

The second answer (given by those who have been called semi-Pelagians, synergists, Arminians, etc.) is that (some) humanity will respond to prevenient Grace and therefore are chosen by God as Elect because they will respond.

The Magisterial Reformers (Reformed and Lutheran) initially sided strongly with Augustine. The response from Rome was just a strong against on the other side with the semi-Pelagian Fathers of the Church (and Franciscans).

Our **English Reformers** came down in the Augustinian camp, albeit with some nuances (perhaps Lutheran in sentiment).

## XVII. Of Predestination and Election (1).

Predestination to Life is the everlasting purpose of God, whereby (before the foundations of the world were laid) he hath constantly decreed by his counsel secret to us, to deliver from curse and damnation those whom he hath **chosen in Christ** out of mankind, and to bring them **by Christ** to everlasting salvation, as vessels made to honour.

**Ephes. 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in **Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>[4]</sup> just as he chose us in Christ **before the foundation of the world** to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>[5]</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children **through Jesus Christ**, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>[6]</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us **in the Beloved**. <sup>[7]</sup> In **him** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>[8]</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>[9]</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set **forth in Christ**, <sup>[10]</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.



**Romans 9:22** What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath that are made for destruction; <sup>[23]</sup> and what if he has done so in order to make known the riches of his glory for the objects of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—

The following selection of verses from the New Testament are the basis of the Augustinian (Reformed, Calvinistic) position on predestination.

We do not have time to exegete each of the passages: some are fairly straight forward.

The entire range of NT witness is included: gospels, paul's letters, Peter and John.



## **Matthew 11:25-26**

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>[26]</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

## **John 10:26-29**

but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>[27]</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>[28]</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>[29]</sup> What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.

## **John 15:16**

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

## **Acts 13:48**

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the word of the Lord; and as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers.

## **Romans 9:11**

Even before they had been born or had done anything good or bad (so that God's purpose of election might continue,

## **1 Thes. 1:4**

For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you,

## **1 Thes. 5:9**

For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

## **2 Thes. 2:13**

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

## **2 Tim. 1:9**

who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

## **1 Peter 1:2**

who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

## **2 Peter 1:10**

Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more eager to confirm your call and election, for if you do this, you will never stumble.

**Ephesians 1:4-5** as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him in love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will. <sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.

**John 17:9** "I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine."

**John 10:14** "I am the good shepherd; and I know my own, and my own know me."

**2 Timothy 2:19** ... the Lord knows those who are His

**Deuteronomy 29:29** The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

## **XVII. Of Predestination and Election(2).**

Wherefore, they which be endued with so excellent a benefit of God, be called according to God's purpose by his Spirit working in due season: they through Grace obey the calling: they be justified freely: they be made sons of God by adoption: they be made like the image of his only-begotten Son Jesus Christ: they walk religiously in good works, and at length, by God's mercy, they attain to everlasting felicity.

**Romans 8:28** We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>[29]</sup> For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>[30]</sup> And those whom he predestined he also **called**; and those whom he called he also **justified**; and those whom he justified he also **glorified**.

# The Golden Chain

**The Elect are.....by God**

- Foreknown: loved before
- Predestined: chose
- called
- Regenerated
- Justified
- Adopted
- Sanctified
- Glorified

**The Elect exercise**

- Faith
- Repentance
- Conversion
- Good works

# A Note on Various Kinds of the Elect

In the Bible there are several kinds of elect or Chosen Ones:

1. Christ as the Elect, or Chosen One ([Isa.42:1; Matt. 12:18; Luke 9:35 and 23:35; I Pet. 2:4,6, Isa. 28:16](#))
2. Israel as the Elect or Chosen nation ([Deut.4:37; 7:6; 10:15; Isa. 44:1f; 45:4; Acts 13:17; Rom. 9:1 – 5](#))
3. Leaders as Elect or Chosen ([1 Sam. 16:7 – 13](#))
4. Elect Angels ([1 Tim. 5:21](#))
5. Individuals as Elect or Chosen ones ([Eph. 1:3; I Pet. 1:1f](#))

It is important to be sure which category is spoken about in a certain context

## **Isaiah 42:1**

Here is my servant,  
whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

## **Matthew 12:18**

"Here is my servant, whom I have chosen,  
my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased.  
I will put my Spirit upon him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.



## **Luke 9:35**

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

## **1 Peter 2:4-6**

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and [5] like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. [6] For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."



### **Deut. 4:37**

And because he loved your ancestors, he chose their descendants after them. He brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power,

### **Deut. 7:6**

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

### **Deut. 10:15**

yet the Lord set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today.

## **Isaiah 44:1-2**

But now hear, O Jacob my servant,

Israel whom I have chosen!

[2] Thus says the Lord who made you,

who formed you in the womb and will help you:

Do not fear, O Jacob my servant,

Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

## **Isaiah 45:4**

For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not

know me.

## **Acts 13:17**

The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.



## 1 Samuel 16:7-13

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because **I have rejected him**; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." [8] Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord **chosen this one**." [9] Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." [10] Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The **Lord has not chosen any of these**." [11] Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." [12] He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for **this is the one**." [13] Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.



## 1 Tim. 5:21

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the **elect angels**, I warn you to keep these instructions without prejudice, doing nothing on the basis of partiality.



## **Ephes. 1:3**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed **us** in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, [4] just as he chose **us** in Christ before the foundation of the world **to be holy and blameless** before him in love

## **1 Peter 1:1-2**

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, [2] who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood:



# XVII. Of Predestination and Election(3).

## A warning

As the godly consideration of Predestination, and our Election in Christ, is full of sweet, pleasant, and unspeakable comfort to godly persons, and such as feel in themselves the working of the Spirit of Christ, mortifying the works of the flesh, and their earthly members, and drawing up their mind to high and heavenly things, as well because it doth greatly establish and confirm their faith of eternal Salvation to be enjoyed through Christ, as because it doth fervently kindle their love towards God: So, for curious and carnal persons, lacking the Spirit of Christ, to have continually before their eyes the sentence of God's Predestination, is a most dangerous downfall, whereby the Devil doth thrust them either into **desperation, or into wretchlessness** of most unclean living, no less perilous than desperation.

## **XVII. Of Predestination and Election(4).**

Furthermore, we must receive God's promises in such wise, as they be generally set forth to us in Holy Scripture: and, in our doings, that Will of God is to be followed, which we have expressly declared unto us in the Word of God.

This seems to be saying just because God has chosen us we must not neglect to perform those things that God has declared for us to do. No fatalism here: we are saved in time by means of Grace, not by a mere decree!



This teaching is Biblical in the sense that it is derived from the Bible. Those who hold to it want to do justice to the teaching of the Bible: and feel if they were to do less they would not be faithful to their LORD.

There is however another side to the “will” of God, and that is of God’s **promiscuous love for all, not just the Elect:**

## **Ezekiel 33:11 (also 18:22)**

Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

## **1 Tim. 2:3-6**

This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>[4]</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>[5]</sup> For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind Christ Jesus, himself human, <sup>[6]</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all --this was attested at the right time.

## **2 Peter 3:9**

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

**John 3:16** "For God so loved the **world** that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>[17]</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the **world might be saved through him.**

# An antinomy?

From the OED

1. A contradiction in a law, or between two equally binding laws.
2. A contradictory law, statute, or principle; an authoritative contradiction. *Obs.*
3. A contradiction between conclusions which seem equally logical, reasonable, or necessary; a paradox; intellectual contradictoriness. (After Kant.)

**Deuteronomy 29:29** The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

## XVII. Of obtaining eternal Salvation only by the Name of Christ

They also are to be had accursed that presume to say, That every man shall be saved by the Law or Sect which he professeth, so that he be diligent to frame his life according to that Law, and the light of Nature. **For Holy Scripture doth set out unto us only the Name of Jesus Christ, whereby men must be saved.**

## **Acts 4:12**

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.

## **John 14:6**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

## **1 Tim. 2:5**

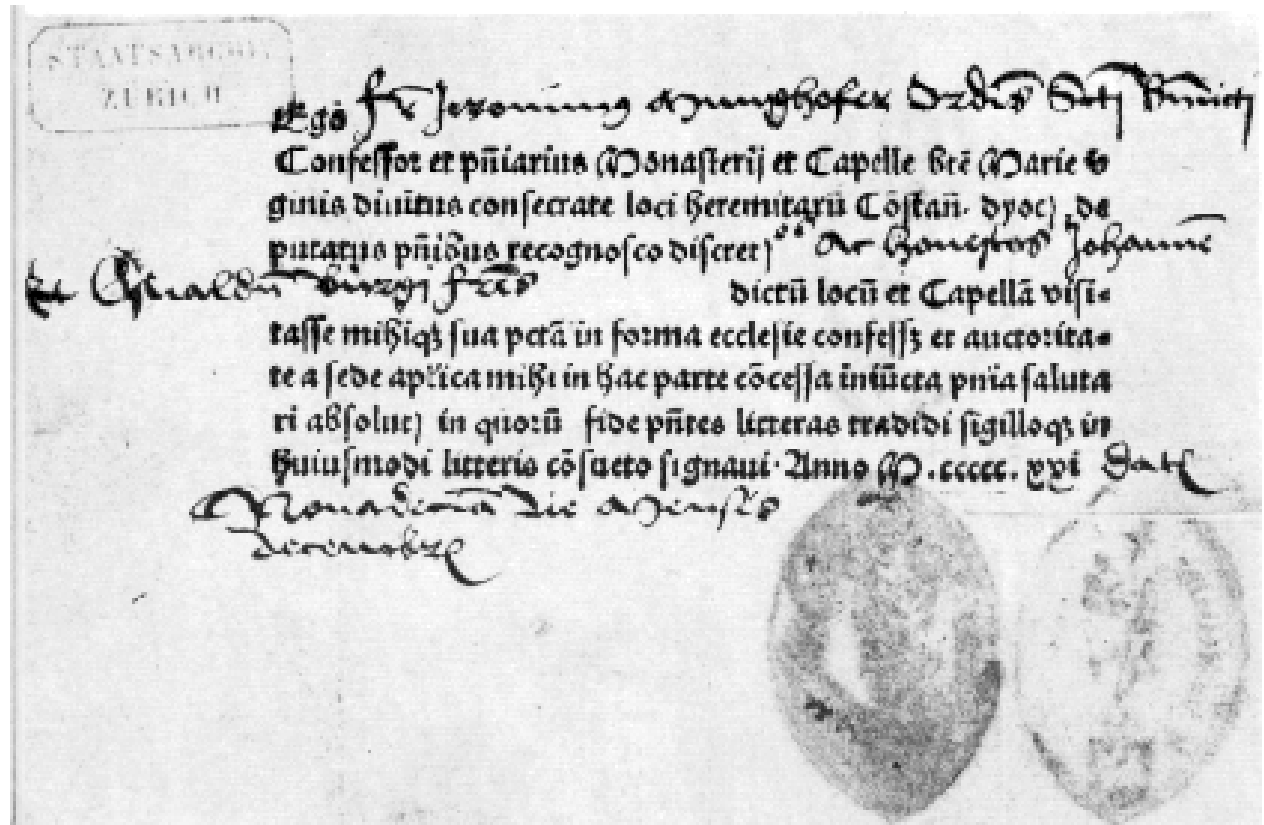
For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human

## XIX. Of the Church.

The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in which the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments be duly ministered according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same.

As the Church of Jerusalem, Alexandria, and Antioch, have erred; so also the Church of Rome hath erred, not only in their **living and manner of Ceremonies, but also in matters of Faith.**

Example of  
the corruption  
of the church



This printed receipt of **indulgence** was issued in  
December 1521 and delivered to two brothers at  
Einsiedeln by a Benedictine monk



“... there was almost an entire abandonment of equity in ecclesiastical judgments; in morals no discipline, in sacred literature no erudition, in divine things no reverence; religion was almost extinct”

**Robert Cardinal  
Bellarmine (1542-1621),  
writing in 1617**



# **Trent did not acknowledge any doctrinal errors: only in manners and morals:**

Trent...lawfully assembled ...considering .. the matters to be treated of, especially of those comprised under the two heads, of the **extirpating of heresies**, and the **reforming of manners**.. *from the Third Session*

the said Synod, after having laid the foundation of the Confession of faith, will proceed, and what testimonies and authorities it will mainly use in **confirming dogmas**, and in **restoring morals** in the Church. *from the fourth session*

## **XX. Of the Authority of the Church.**

The Church hath power to decree Rites or Ceremonies, and authority in Controversies of Faith: and yet it is not lawful for the Church to ordain any thing that is contrary to God's Word written, neither may it so expound one place of Scripture, that it be repugnant to another.

Wherefore, although the Church be a witness and a keeper of Holy Writ, yet, as it ought not to decree any thing against the same, so besides the same ought it not to enforce any thing to be believed for necessity of Salvation.

## In Article VI. Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation, we saw that:

Holy Scripture<sup>i</sup> containeth **all things necessary to salvation<sup>k</sup>**: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be **required** of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith<sup>l</sup>, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation.

This means that the Scriptures are the Rule of Faith: nothing can be claimed as necessary for Salvation that is not in or can be proved there from.

## 2 Tim. 3:15

and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to **instruct you for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for **teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,** <sup>17</sup>so that everyone who belongs to God may be **proficient, equipped for every good work.**

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## **Acts 20:32**

And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able **to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified.**

- The Church hath **power** to decree **Rites** or **Ceremonies**, and authority in Controversies of Faith (liturgy) *contra* Puritans
- neither may it so expound one place of Scripture, that it be **repugnant** to another (analogy of Scripture)
- Church is a witness and a keeper of Holy Writ, yet, as it ought not to decree any thing **against** the same, so **besides** the same ought it not to enforce any thing to be believed for necessity of Salvation.

## XXI. Of the Authority of General Councils.

[The Twenty-first of the former Articles is omitted; because it is partly of a local and civil nature, and is provided for, as to the remaining parts of it, in other Articles.]

*The original 1571, 1662 text of this Article, omitted in the version of 1801, reads as follows: “General Councils may not be gathered together without the commandment and will of Princes. And when they be gathered together, (forasmuch as they be an assembly of men, whereof all be not governed with the Spirit and Word of God,) they may err, and sometimes have erred, even in things pertaining unto God. Wherefore things ordained by them as necessary to salvation have neither strength nor authority, unless it may be declared that they be taken out of holy Scripture.”*



## XXII. Of Purgatory.

The Romish Doctrine concerning Purgatory, Pardons, Worshipping and Adoration, as well of Images as of Relics, and also Invocation of Saints, is a fond thing, vainly invented, and grounded upon **no warranty of Scripture**, but rather **repugnant to the Word of God**.

There is a mixture here of Doctrine (Purgatory, Pardons) and Rites and Ceremonies (Adoration of images, relics, invocation of saints) Remember in XX we saw that *the Church... ought not to decree any thing **against** the same (scripture)*



**Fond:** *adj.*

1. That has lost its savour; insipid; sickly-flavoured. *Obs.*

2. Infatuated, foolish, silly. Since 16th c. the sense in literary use has been chiefly: Foolishly credulous or sanguine.

