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Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Lord's Day						
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DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“Westminster Confession of Faith” Chapter III –Of God’s Eternal Decree

Selected Scripture

December 8 – December 13, 2008

THE LORD'S DAY –This week, we are in what is known as the “advent” season. We are anticipating the celebration of Christmas, the time we celebrate the coming of God to earth; the incarnation (God becoming flesh) in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. I have chosen to speak on some advent related areas; this week focusing on the fact that Christ’s coming to earth was not a reactionary or “spur of the moment” decision; rather it was the plan of God from eternity past to send Christ to redeem His own. Our lessons for the next month or so will be taken from “The Westminster Confession of Faith”. The Westminster Confession of Faith is a Reformed confession of faith in the Calvinist theological tradition. Although drawn up by the 1646 Westminster Assembly, largely of the Church of England, it became the 'subordinate standard' of doctrine in the Church of Scotland and has been influential within Presbyterian churches worldwide. With selected changes it has also been adopted by some Congregationalists and was the basis for the 1689 London Baptist Confession. Again, we are reminded that “Confessions of Faith” are only right when they are aligned with and true to the Sacred Scriptures. God’s word is the only infallible source of truth, but God has chosen to use men to teach us and declare His Holy Word. With those thoughts in mind we will take Chapter III of the confession as the basis of our study this week. Read **Psalms 138:1-2**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week.

MONDAY – I. God from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass (**Isaiah 46:10, Ephesians 1:11, Hebrews 6:17, Romans 9:15,18**); yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin (**James 1:13, 1 John 1:5**), nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the

liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established (**Acts 2:23; Matthew 17:12; Acts 4:27,28; John 19:11; Proverbs 16:33**) .

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, thank You that You had a plan from all eternity past to save me from my sin and certain eternal death. I praise You for being the only One who declares and ordains all things.

TUESDAY – II. Although God knows whatsoever may or can come to pass upon all supposed conditions (**Acts 15:18; 1 Samuel 23:11, 12; Matthew 11:21, 23**); yet has He not decreed anything because He foresaw it as future, or as that which would come to pass upon such conditions (**Romans 9:11, 13, 16, 18**).

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, I thank You that You just didn't "see" into the future and make decisions based on what You saw. .

WEDNESDAY – III. By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels (**1 Timothy 5:21; Matthew 25:41**) are predestinated unto everlasting life; and others foreordained to everlasting death (**Romans 9:22, 23; Ephesians 1:5, 6; Proverbs 16:4**).

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, help me understand that You do all things for Your glory; even things I may not be able to fully understand.

THURSDAY – IV. These angels and men, thus predestinated, and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed, and their number so certain and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished (**2 Timothy 2:19; John 13:18**).

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, I am amazed at Your majestic wisdom and

ability to know, count, and exert Your sovereign control over seemingly uncountable angels and men.

FRIDAY – V. Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, has chosen, in Christ, unto everlasting glory (**Ephesians 1:4,9,11; Romans 8:30; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9**), out of His mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith, or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving Him thereunto (**Romans 9:11,13,16; Ephesians 1:4,9**); and all to the praise of His glorious grace (**Ephesians 1:6,12**).

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, thank You for such grace that staggers my mind; that You loved me and set Your grace upon me while I was an enemy of Yours; completely lost in sin and fixed in my rebellion, and that nothing can alter Your plan or separate me from Your love.

SATURDAY – VI. As God has appointed the elect unto glory, so has He, by the eternal and most free purpose of His will, foreordained all the means thereunto (**1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 1:4,5; 2:10; 2 Thessalonians 2:13**). Wherefore, they who are elected, being fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ (**1 Thessalonians 5:9, 10; Titus 2:14**), are effectually called unto faith in Christ by His Spirit working in due season, are justified, adopted, sanctified (**Romans 8:30; Ephesians 1:5; 2 Thessalonians 2:13**), and kept by His power, through faith, unto salvation (**1 Peter 1:5**). Neither are any other redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved, but the elect only (**John 17:9; Romans 8:28; John 6:64,65; 10:26; 8:47; 1 John 2:19**).

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Father, thank You that by Christ Jesus You have redeemed me. Jesus, thank You for taking my punishment on the cross and making peace with the Father on my behalf. Holy Spirit, I praise You for indwelling me and sealing and securing me in Christ and working in me to make me more like Jesus.