

Deuteronomy 29:29 states: "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."

Romans 10:16 states: "However, they did not heed the glad tidings for Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our report?' "

II Thessalonians 1:8 says: "dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."

(b) The decrees are known through (and therefore following) their realization.

The one exception to this principle involves those aspects of God's Plan which pertain to the future and which He has been pleased to reveal. However, as far as God's decrees respecting salvation, if a human being determines to make no efforts to obtain salvation, he will indeed discover that he is one of the non-elect! The converse is also true.

(2) This objection confuses the decrees with fatalism.

But fatalism is the doctrine that all events come to pass under the operation of a blind necessity. Fate is unintelligent, is indistinguishable from material causation, and embraces no moral ideas or ends.

On the other hand the decrees are framed by a personal God in infinite wisdom, exclude all notion of physical necessity, and make moral ideas and ends controlling in the universe. Nothing could be further from fatalism!

(3) This objection ignores the divinely ordained connection between means and ends.

(a) God has decreed both the end and the means to secure it.

The event is determined in connection with the means. If the end is to be gained, then the means must be employed. If the means fail, then the end will also fail.

Thus God has decreed that harvest will come only as a result of sowing and reaping. If a man refuses to sow and reap, he will have no harvest (and should have no expectations of having one).

God has decreed that physical life will be sustained only as a result of eating food. If a human being refuses to eat, he will die.

God has decreed that answers to prayer will come only as a result of prayer. If a person refuses to pray, he or she will have no answers.

God has decreed that justification before God will come only as a result of the exercise of justifying faith. If a