

2. Reprobation

a. Definition

(1) According to Louis Berkhof, "Reprobation may be defined as that eternal decree of God whereby He has determined to pass some men by with the operations of His special grace, and to punish them for their sins, to the manifestation of His justice.'

-- *Systematic Theology* Fourth Edition (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959), p. 116.

(2) According to A. A. Hodge, "Reprobation is the aspect which God's eternal decree presents in its relation to that portion of the human race which shall be finally condemned for their sins.

"It is, 1st, negative, inasmuch as it consists in passing over these, and refusing to elect them to life; and, 2nd, positive, inasmuch as they are condemned to eternal misery.

"In respect to its negative element, reprobation is simply sovereign, since those passed over were no worse than those elected, and the simple reason both for the choosing and for the passing over was the sovereign good pleasure of God.

"In respect to its positive element, reprobation is not sovereign, but simply judicial, because God inflicts misery in any case only as the righteous punishment of sin."

-- *Outlines of Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1957), p. 222.

b. Scriptures pertinent to the doctrine

(1) Romans 9:18, 21-22

"So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires."

"Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use?"

"What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath having been prepared (κατηρτισμένα -- perf. pass. part. fr. καταρτίζω) for destruction?"

(2) Romans 11:7-10

"What then? That which Israel is seeking for, it has not obtained, but the elect (ἡ ἐκλογὴ) have obtained (it). And the rest were hardened (ἐπωρώθησαν) -- 1st aor. ind. pass. fr. πωρόω) even as it is written, 'God gave them a spirit of stupor, Eyes to see not And ears to hear not Until the present day.' And David says, 'Let their table become a snare and a trap And a stumbling block and a retribution to them. Let their eyes be darkened to see not And their back bowed down in everything.' "

(3) 1 Peter 2:7-8

'This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who do not believe, 'The Stone which the builders rejected This became the very corner stone,' and, 'A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.'