

C. Objections to the Doctrine

The following list of objections has been compiled from many sources. Although it does not include all possible objections, it does include those which have actually been made.

1. "This doctrine represents God as a respecter of persons'

The objector quotes such Scriptures as Rom. 2:1 -- "For there is no respect of persons with God" -- and infers from it the principle that God does not discriminate or show partiality in His dealings with men. Since the doctrine of predestination portrays God as discriminating between elect and nonelect men, and showing partiality in His bestowal of salvation upon the elect, it violates a scriptural principle, and is therefore contrary to Scripture, according to the objector.

The problem, of course, is in the meaning assigned to the term "respect of persons". To resolve the problem it is necessary to study the term's usage in Scripture (especially in the AV).

a. In the Old Testament the term is used in the following Scriptures:

(1) Lev. 19:15 -- "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour."

(2) Deut. 1:17 -- "Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it."

(3) Deut. 16:19 -- "Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous."

(4) 2 Sam. 14:14 -- "For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him."

(5) 2 Chron. 19:5-7 -- "And he (Jehoshaphat, king of Judah) set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city, And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye Judge not for man, but for the Lord, who is with you in the judgment. Wherefore now let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect of persons nor taking of gifts."

(6) Prov. 24:23 -- "These things also belong to the wise. it is not good to have respect of persons in judgment."

(7) Prov. 28:21 -- "To have respect of persons is not good; for for a piece of bread that man will transgress."