

The Church of the Servant King
Soteriology Series

SO_7_The Divine Decree – Part 3 – Definition & Doctrine

An Analogy Between the Divine Decree and a Computer

The divine decree that occurred in eternity past in the mind of the omniscient Trinity can be understood using an analogy to a computer. This analogy is somewhat dated in regard to the technology; however, it illustrates the concept of the divine decree as we have been studying it fairly well. In this analogy, a ROM chip (Read Only Memory) represents that portion of the decree that includes those sovereign decisions of God that are independent of the decisions of man. On the other hand, a PROM chip (Programmable Read Only Memory) represents those aspects of the decree that include the free will decisions of man.

- ❑ The ROM chip component of the divine decree would include those aspects of God's plan that include such truths as corporate election, glorification, justification, sanctification, the timing of the 1st Advent, the timing of the Rapture, the timing of the 2nd Advent, etc.
- ❑ The PROM chip component of the divine decree would include all the free will decisions of man throughout human history.
- ❑ God's decision to allow man to have free will can be seen as a part of the ROM component; whereas the actual free will decisions of man are part of the PROM component.
- ❑ Both the PROM and ROM chip components are a product of the omniscience of God the Father Who considered all available options prior to their manufacture.
- ❑ Every logistical grace need, every exigency of life, every heartache, every injustice, every failure, every success, every prayer of man was factored into the decree in eternity past.
- ❑ The distinction between the PROM and ROM chips emphasizes the importance of prayer in the life of the believer. (Some ask the question of why should we pray, if God's plan has already incorporated all the free-will decisions of man? Answer: Because God considered the prayer of every believer into the decree along with a decision of how He would address that prayer from eternity past.)

The Divine Decree and God's Will

As we have seen in a previous study, the Will of God can be understood by viewing it from different angles. Just as four different men viewing the same building from four different angles would have four slightly different descriptions of the same building, so it is with the Will of God. The Divine Decree expresses the Will of God for the Divine Decree is the result of the interaction of God's unified essence functioning in perfect harmony with the free-will of His creatures. Some of the different descriptions of His divine Will follows:

- ❑ Preventive – (Gen. 20:6; Psa. 19:13) God uses parents, governments, laws, His Word, His Spirit, and conscience as means to impede the progress of evil and insure that human history will be the convincing evidence in Satan's appeal trial that it is intended to be.
- ❑ Permissive – (Deut. 8:2; 2 Chron. 32:31; Hos. 4:17; Rom. 1:24, 28) embraces that which God does not restrain, i.e. the free will function of His creatures.
- ❑ Determinative – includes those actions of God apart from man's decisions (e.g. the creation of Adam and Eve, the timing of Christ's 1st Advent, the timing of the Rapture and the 2nd Advent, and the extent, nature, and timing of God's revelation to man in times past).
- ❑ Preceptive – His commands.

The Divine Decree and the Sins of the Human Race

In addition to every person in history having his own PROM chip, there is another PROM chip which includes all human beings in history. The omniscience of God programmed into this PROM chip all personal sins in history. On the Cross, God the Father called for the printout of this chip and imputed all personal sins to Christ and judged every one of them. Since both sins of cognizance and sins of ignorance are the function of human volition, every sin in human history was imputed to Christ and judged by God the Father on the Cross.