

The Church of the Servant King
Soteriology Series

SO_7_The Divine Decree – Part 4 – Definition & Doctrine - Imputations

Some Questions:

- ❑ Do the decrees determine what is certain?
- ❑ Is any event in human history caused by the decrees?
- ❑ What two attributes of God are most prominent in understanding the decrees?
- ❑ How do the decrees relate to God's glorification of Himself?
- ❑ How do you reconcile the free will of man and the sovereignty of God within the concept of a divine decree?
- ❑ How do you explain "election" and "predestination" in the context of the divine decree?
- ❑ How do you respond to the question of injustice and why bad things happen to "good" people in view of the divine decree?
- ❑ How is the subject of "sin" reconciled with the divine decree?

The Divine Decree and the Subject of Imputation

The divine decree represents the unity of God's attributes in action in relation to His creatures. The subject of imputation represents the integrity of God (i.e. the function of the righteousness and justice of God). An imputation is the function of the justice of God in crediting something to someone for the purpose of blessing or cursing. Imputations fall into two categories – real and judicial.¹

Real Imputation – an imputation in which that which is imputed has a rightful home or is antecedently his/her own.

- ❑ Adam's original sin is imputed to the inherent old sin nature within man (Rom 5:12; 6:6, 12; Eph 4:22; Col 3:9). There is a connection between the seed of man and the perpetuation of the sin nature (compare Gen 3:15 and the virgin birth of Jesus).

Judicial Imputation – those imputations where that which is imputed does not have a rightful home. In the case of a judicial imputation, the emphasis is upon the source of the imputation (i.e. the justice of God).

- ❑ The imputation of the righteousness of God to the believer by the justice of God at the point of salvation (the point of trust in Christ's work alone to satisfy God's requirements). See Genesis 15:6; Romans 5:16
- ❑ The imputation of the sins of the world to Jesus Christ on the Cross. See Romans 5:15

¹ For an extended discussion of this subject, see Lewis S. Chafer, *Systematic Theology* (Dallas, Texas: Dallas Seminary Press, 1947), Volume II, 296-315.