

Studies in the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith:

Chapter 3, Paragraph 4

Paragraph 4:

These angels and men being predestined and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed, and their number so certain and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished.

Main thoughts: Election is DEFINITE!

God has a particular plan for a particular people that cannot be altered or changed.

- A. In reference to the angels and men who have been “predestined” and “foreordained”.
- B. These angels and men are *particularly and unchangeably designed*.
- C. Not speaking of a “general group,” because *their number is certain and definite*.

Scripture References:

- **2 Timothy 2:19**- The Lord “knows”
- **John 13:18**- “I know the ones whom I have chosen.”
- **Revelation 13:8**- individual names written in the Lamb’s Book of Life:
- **John 10:3**- the Good Shepherd “calls his sheep by name.”
- **John 17:2**- Jesus gives eternal life not to all men, but to those whom the Father gave to Him.
- **Ephesians 1:4-5**- Those chosen to be adopted in Christ were *predestined* to that end.

Why is this doctrine important?

1. Strengthens the believer's assurance:

- **Romans 8:28-31**— “Called according to God's purpose”
- **2 Timothy 1:9**—

2. It strengthens our efforts in evangelism:

- **2 Timothy 2:19**— “I endure everything for the sake of the elect.”
- **Titus 1:1-3**— “Paul . . . for the faith of those chosen of God.”