

The Entire Counsel of God – A Trinitarian Truth – Acts 20:27

Speaking to the Ephesian elders, Paul indicated that he had not held back any aspect of the counsel of God (not the entire Bible, as this statement of the counsel of God is often wrongly interpreted).

<p>OMNISCIENCE</p> <p>Omniscience is the eternal attribute of God, by which He knows all things. In other words, He knows all facts and all possibilities.</p>	<p>GOD KNOWS ALL WITH-OUT LIMITS – Isaiah 46:10.</p>
<p>DESIRES, WISHES</p> <p>God’s desirous will comes from His single nature. The three persons desire those things which come from God’s righteous nature. Therefore, only one desirous will exists, shared equally by all three persons. Some of God’s desires were determined to come to pass in the Trinitarian counsel, though not all (1 Timothy 2:4). However, each Person has His own determinative will, and could, potentially, determine different ways to implement the same desires, hence the need for the counsel of God.</p>	<p>DESIROUS WILL – Eph. 1:11; 1:9; 1:5</p>
<p>ACT OF DETERMINATIVE WILL</p> <p>The three Persons decided on a specific plan. This plan incorporated into a single determinative act the way God would accomplish His desires. For instance it was determined that a specific Person would die on the cross. All realities were determined in this plan so that God’s ultimate glory might be expressed.</p>	<p>EXPRESSED IN TRINITARIAN COUNCIL TO DETERMINE THE COUNSEL OF ACTS 2:23</p>
<p>COUNSEL</p> <p>The counsel of God refers to the Trinitarian plan rendered certain by the decision of the three Persons. Since each Person has His own determinative will, it was necessary for Them to agree as to the means by which They would bring about God’s desirous will.</p>	<p>COUNSEL ARISING FROM THE COUNCIL – EPH. 1:4; HEB. 6:17; ACTS 2:23; ACTS 4:28</p>
<p>GOOD PLEASURE</p> <p>God was well pleased with the plan that the Persons determined. The plan is therefore perfect and will accomplish the results intended.</p>	<p>WHAT GOD DETERMINED BROUGHT HIM GOOD PLEASURE – EPH. 1:5, 9</p>
<p>ACT OF ELECTION</p> <p>Election is simply the act of choosing. It is consistent with God’s desirous will that He make choices so that certain aspects of that desirous will be fulfilled. The very act of choosing shows that more than one possibility existed for God’s plan to be successful. This act of choosing includes the election of Christ to die, the election of Israel to be God’s people, and the election of individuals to be saved.</p>	<p>WHAT GOD HAD CHOSEN WAS ACCORDING TO HIS GOOD PLEASURE – RO. 9:11; EPH. 1:9</p>
<p>GOD’S PURPOSE</p> <p>A purpose is an intention to act that will produce certain results. Before God chose some things over others, there was no possibility of His purpose being performed. But after He elected, His purpose became identified, and every act that He subsequently took with reference to the creation was for the purpose of carrying out His purpose.</p>	<p>WHAT GOD HAD CHOSEN BECAME HIS PURPOSE – RO. 9:11; EPH. 1:11; EPH. 3:11</p>
<p>FOREKNOWLEDGE, PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE</p> <p>God foreknew NOTHING until He had a purpose, because foreknowledge is the fixing of certain realities in His experience. God had to have the experience <i>of the decree</i> before He could foreknow, because He had to choose whom to foreknow.</p>	<p>WHAT GOD HAD PURPOSED HE FOREKNEW WITH AN EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE – RO. 8:28, 29; ACTS 2:23; EPH. 1:5; 1 PET. 1:20</p>
<p>PREDESTINATION, LIMITATIONS PLACED AROUND</p> <p>Predestination is based on foreknowledge and is according to God’s purpose, unlike election which produces God’s purpose. Predestination is the placing of limits around those people and events which God elected so that His purpose would be accomplished.</p>	<p>WHAT GOD PURPOSED HE PLACED LIMITS AROUND, AND THUS PREDESTINED BASED ON HIS FOREKNOWLEDGE – EPH. 1:11</p>