

# Augsburg Confession

## Fall 2025 – Winter 2026

### Session 16 – Elected for Comfort

#### YouTube Video – “Elected for Comfort”

Summary of the doctrine of election from a Lutheran Prospective.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAq0UeQKxLY&t=10s> )

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#### Formula of Concord Article XI –

<https://thebookofconcord.org/wp-content/PDFs/TrigBOC.pdf>

#### Foreknowledge vs. Predestination/Eternal Election

- ❖ **Foreknowledge** – God knows all things before they happen
  - Extends over **all** creatures
  - **Not the cause of sin or evil**
  - **God vs. Evil**
    - **Limits**
      - Scope
      - Time
    - **Opposes**
      - Hinders
      - Punishes
    - **Uses (Overrules)**
      - God’s glory
      - Man’s Salvation
  - Hosea 13:9 – *“He destroys you, O Israel, for you are against me, against your helper”.*
  - Psalm 5:4 – *“The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.”*
  
- ❖ **Predestination**
  - Extends only over the **children** of God
  - Is a **cause** of Salvation
  - **Establishes** our salvation
  
- ❖ **All theology is spiritual warfare** and there is a danger in the doctrine of election
  - Secret council of God
    - Deut 29:29 contradicts this thought – *“The **secret things** belong to the **Lord our God**, but the things that are **revealed** belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”*

❖ **Key doctrine is Christ**

- Calls Sinners
- Promises Rest
- Wills that all would come to Him
- Promises the Holy Spirit

❖ **Doctrine of Elections concludes**

1. *If I'm elect, I can't be condemned no matter what I do (Epicurean Impenitence)*
2. *If I'm not elect, it doesn't matter, all is in vain – (Despair)*

**You can't be saved by reason or God's law, but only through Jesus Christ**

- ❖ **Romans 11:32** – *“For God has consigned **all** to disobedience, that he may have mercy on **all**.”*
- ❖ **Ezekiel 33:11** – *“Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have **no pleasure in the death of the wicked**, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?”*
- ❖ **2 Peter 3:9** – *“Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.”*
- ❖ **1 John 2:2** – *“He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world”*

**Paul's Epistle to the Romans**

- ❖ Knowledge of Sin (Ch 1-3)
- ❖ Faith in Christ (Ch 3-4)
- ❖ Contending with sin (Ch 5-8)
- ❖ Then, in the midst of crosses and tribulation: then **consolation** of the doctrine of election or predestination
  - Doctrine of election is not to cause us trouble, but to comfort us in the midst of trouble.
- ❖ **Matthew 22:14** – *“For many are called, but **few** are **chosen**.”*
- ❖ **1 Peter 2:1**- *“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.”*
- ❖ **Hebrews 12:25** – *“See that you do not **refuse** him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven”*

## The Calling of Christians to Faith

**Christ, the Book of Life (in which the names of the elect are written) is opened in the preaching of the Gospel**

- ❖ **Romans 8:30** – “*And those whom he **predestined** he also called, and those whom he **called** he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*”
- ❖ **The Dolphine illustration** (You can draw your own picture...)

- ❖ We are **Called** and **Sanctified**

- ❖ **Book of Concord Epitome - Article XI Point 12**

“In **Him** we are to seek the **eternal election of the Father**, who has determined in **His eternal divine** counsel that He would save no one **except** those who know **His Son Christ** and **truly believe on Him**. Other thoughts are to be [entirely] banished [from the minds of the godly], as they proceed not from God, but from the suggestion of the Evil Foe, whereby he attempts to **weaken** or **entirely to remove** from us the **glorious consolation** which we have in this salutary doctrine, namely, that we know [assuredly] that out of **pure grace**, without any **merit of our own**, we have been **elected in Christ** to **eternal life**, and that no one can pluck us out of His hand; as He has not only promised this gracious election with mere words, but has also certified it with an oath and **sealed it with the holy Sacraments**, which we can [ought to] call to mind in our most **severe temptations**, and **take comfort** in them, and therewith quench the fiery darts of the devil.

- ❖ **2 Peter 1:10** – “*Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your **calling** and **election**, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.*”

## True Doctrine

- ❖ Gives all glory to God
- ❖ And is not a cause for
  - Despondency (Rom 15:4 – “*For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*”)
  - Vulgar or wild lifestyle Life (2 Tim 3:16 – “*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*”)

## False Teachings that must be rejected

1. God is unwilling that all repent and believe the Gospel
2. God Calls some people but not all in earnest.
  - a. “Two Species of Calling” (John Calvin Institutes)
    - i. Universal Call
    - ii. Special Call
3. God is unwilling that everyone should be saved. Some, without regard to their sin (from mere counsel) are ordained to condemnation.
  - a. **Romans 9:22-24** – “*What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has **endured** with much **patience vessels of wrath** prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for **vessels of mercy**, which **he** has **prepared beforehand for glory**— even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?*”
4. In us, there is a cause of election

## ❖ Romans 11:33-36 -

**Oh**, the **depth** of the **riches** and **wisdom** and **knowledge** of God! How **unsearchable** are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

“For who has known the **mind** of the **Lord**,  
or who has been his **counselor**?”

“Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be **repaid**?”

For **from him** and **through him** and to **him** are **all things**. To **him** be **glory forever**.  
**Amen.**

**Question** - Summarize below what the following passages say about human traditions, the human will, and salvation through Jesus Christ alone

Matthew 15:3 -

Matthew 15:10-11 -

Romans 14:17 -

Colossians 2:16-21 -

Acts 15:10-11 -

### **THE WHOLE TOPIC OF "FREE WILL" CAN BE COMPLICATED.**

- ❖ In 1525, Luther published *On the Bondage of the Will* to explore this topic (Luther's Works, vol. 33). This was Luther's response to Erasmus, a scholar who believed in free will. If you would like to dig deeper into the issue of the will of God and man, this would be an excellent resource.

### **Next Lesson –**

Church Authority – Can other people in the church tell us what to do?

Civil Government - What is the church's role and responsibility?

### **References**

Lutheran Doctrine and Practice Today, A Study Based on Scripture and the Augsburg Confession, Rev. Dr. James A Baneck, North Dakota District President. 2015. CPH.

The Augsburg Confession, <https://www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Augsburg-Confession-Study-Guide.pdf>

Book of Concord Online, The Original Home of the Book of Concord, <https://bookofconcord.org/augsburg-confession/>

"Article XVIII. Free Will" in The Augsburg Confession, Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, Pocket Edition. © 2005, 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

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