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This eternal election of God is to be considered in Christ, and not outside of or without Christ. For "in Christ," the apostle Paul testifies, "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world," as it is written, "He has blessed us in the Beloved" (Ephesians 1:4, 6). However, this election is revealed from heaven through the preaching of His Word, when the Father says, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him" (Matthew 17:5). Christ says, "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Concerning the Holy Spirit Christ says, "He will glorify Me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you" (John 16:14). So the entire Holy Trinity—God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—directs all people to Christ, as to the Book of Life, in whom they should seek the Father's eternal election. For this has been decided by the Father from eternity: whom He would save He would save through Christ. Christ Himself says, "No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). And again, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved" (John 10:9).

When a person has been converted, and is thus enlightened, and his will is renewed, then a person wants to do what is good (so far as he is regenerate or a new man). Then that person will "delight in the law of God, in [his] inner being" (Romans 7:22) and from that time forward does good to such an extent and as long as he is moved by God's Spirit, as Paul says [in Romans 8:14], "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." This moving by the Holy Spirit is not a coercion. The converted person does good spontaneously, as David says [in Psalm 110:3], "Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power." Nevertheless, the conflict between the flesh and spirit remains in the regenerate. St. Paul wrote about this in Romans 7:21–23:

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (Romans 7:25)

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. (Galatians 5:17)

We neither can nor should investigate and fathom everything in this article, the great apostle Paul declares. After having argued much about this article from God's revealed Word, as soon as he comes to the point where he shows what God has reserved for His hidden wisdom about this mystery, he suppresses and cuts it off with the following words, "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

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