

necessary acts, arising from an eternal Plan, but rather as actions freely chosen by God as expressions of His good pleasure and purpose. An eternal and therefore necessary Plan would annul the meaning of these terms and actions.

If we can disabuse ourselves of the notion of God's timelessness and see that God's Plan was carefully and freely formulated according to God's purpose and good pleasure at some point in God's self-experience, then we can strip away necessity from God's Plan and retain His goodness and kindness expressed in creation and His grace and mercy expressed in redemption through our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

But what does this do to the omniscience of God's foreknowledge? Does it imply that God did not know what He was going to do before He freely decided what He was going to do? Does it imply that omniscience includes in its objects only what God knows as actual? Does it imply that the content of God's foreknowledge increases with each aspect God decides to incorporate into His Plan? The proposal presented here implies all of the above!

3. The wisdom of God

a. The meaning of wisdom

(1) According to *Webster's New World Dictionary*:

wisdom 1 the quality of being wise; power of judging rightly and following the soundest course of action, based on knowledge, experience, understanding, etc.; good judgment; sagacity 2 learning; knowledge; erudition (the wisdom of the ages) 3 (Now Rare) wise discourse or teaching 4 a wise plan or course of action

(2) According to Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology* (Washington: Scribner, 1871), Volume One, pp. 401-402:

Wisdom and knowledge are intimately related. The former is manifested in the selection of proper ends, and of proper means for the accomplishment of those ends. As there is abundant evidence of design in the works of nature, so all the works of God declare his wisdom. They show, from the most minute to the greatest, the most wonderful adaptation of means to accomplish the high end of the good of his creatures and the manifestation of his own glory. So also, in the whole course of history, we see evidence of the controlling power of God making all things work together for the best interests of his people, and the promotion of his kingdom upon earth. It is, however, in