

Lecture Given at The Evangelical Presbyterian Training
Association, on October 22, 1951

000424

Thy throne

Let us pray. Oh God our Father, we approach ^{Thy throne} this evening with awe before thee, Thou who art all holy, all power, all light. Oh our God, we thank thee for thy justice, and for thy mercy. We thank thee for thy goodness and thy love and we also Father, as we undertake the study of these difficult matters, that thou wilt help us to understand them and to see thy ^{will} /tonight. That thou wilt help us our Father not to engage in disputations about words to no value and that thou wilt help us to seek the meat of thy scripture. To seek to know learn thy truth and to understand thy purposes. That thou wilt help us Oh God to find that which is practical and vital in our spiritual life in our service to Thee. We ask in Jesus name. Amen. Now this evening I have been asked to speak to you on the ninth chapter of the 'Confession of Faith'. If we would have these lectures, one right after the other, day after day, and if I had been here every night to hear all of the other eight, I could simply take for ~~granted~~ granted everything that was said about the other eight and go right straight on to number nine. But it is quite a while since you have heard here number five and number three and I haven't heard what was said on any of those nights either. And so under the circumstances it is necessary that we go back and take a running start in order to come up to number nine properly. You can't start right in with number nine, you won't have proper background for it. And so tonight I don't think that it will be waisting your time at all even if it should involve a little repetition of something of what was done before. So look back a little at number three and number five which are very intimately connected with number nine. Number three, Chapter Three, 'Of God's Eternal Decree', Chapter five of 'Of Providence'. Let me read the first section of chapter three: "God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass, yet so as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures, nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established." God from all eternity did by the most wise and