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A personal and confidential discussion of mechanism and free agency.

One time when I was at Campus in the Woods (hyphens?) speaking to college students I came in contact with a man who was the representative of a group of doctors that who traveling about to help the Chn° development of Chn° doctors. He let down his hair with me and began to discuss his doubts and problems. They centered around this: if God per controls and directs all things, and my personal relationship to God is so important, why is it that the question of whether one of my patients ~~xxxxxx~~ lives or dies often depends ~~xxx~~ on the care with which I treat him? If I do give him the f right medicine he lives; if I give him the wrong medicine he dies. He could see the web of cause and effect and felt as he was only part of this web and therefore found it difficult to recognize ~~xxx~~ that God was really active in the whole procedure. Each one of us knows that he can make individual decisions. We are sure that in the mornign we could say abed and do nothing or we could get up and do our best to carry out accomplish what we would like to do in life. We see the effects of mechanism all around x us. Yet ~~xxx~~ we believe that we have can make choices and that these choices make a difference. If this is true of us it is equally true of God. As x the Westminster Confession states, "God has foreordained all things that come to pass." Yet this is not in such a way as to ~~xx~~ interfere wth the reality of second causes. The (nc) A second cause in other words is the decision of anyone any one of us as to what he would like to do, and the results of our actions. They are real, and yet God controls all things and has determined everything in advance. There is a difference here that we cannot to us seems absolutely irreconcilable, and yet we are sure that both are true, and both are definitely taught in the Scripture. The mystery of absolute divine control, combined with a real human choice, and real effects from human ~~xxxxxxxx~~ decisions, and a great amount of cause and effect influencing these decisions and influencing all that happens around us, constitutes