

Lesson Aim	To understand two things: First, that we Christians are engaged in a spiritual battle every day and second, how to fight spiritually speaking.
Steps to Learning	Read the Canons of Dort, Head 1, Articles 1-5 and Ephesians 2:1-10 . Also discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>What are the Canons of Dort?</p> <p>The Canons of Dort are a response document to theological error. They were written during the Synod of Dort (a meeting of the Reformed Churches), which was held from 1618–1619 in the Netherlands. The Canons respond to the theological errors of Arminianism, which had five points called the “Remonstrance”:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Election is conditioned by foreknowledge2. The atonement is universal3. Original sin does not inhibit people from choosing God on their own4. God’s grace can be resisted5. People can’t be assured that God will persevere them to the end <p>The Canons of Dort have five points or “heads,” which assert just the opposite of what the Arminians were asserting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Election is unconditional2. The atonement is limited to the elect3. Original sin means that all people are depraved and can’t choose God unless they are elected4. God’s grace won’t be resisted5. God perseveres his people to the end <p>What is the focus of the Canons of Dort?</p> <p>One person states that the focus of the Canons is that “salvation is wholly by divine grace rather than by human merit.” This focus helps us to understand the Canons not to be a cold, academic treatise but a document that summarizes the Scriptures in such a way that Christians find comfort in the work of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>What are the first 5 articles of Head 1 all about?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Article 1:</i> Because of total depravity, God would be just to send all people to hell.• <i>Article 2:</i> In spite of total depravity, God sent Christ into the world to work salvation.• <i>Article 3:</i> People do not understand or appreciate Christ naturally and need the preaching of the Gospel to come to faith.• <i>Article 4:</i> Preaching produces two results: the wrath of God rests on those who don’t believe, and salvation belongs to those who believe.• <i>Article 5:</i> The reason of unbelief resides in man but the cause of belief rests in God who gives people faith as a gift.
Bible Reading	Philippians 1 – Colossians 3 (Reading through the New Testament)