

Lesson Aim	To understand that election is based solely on God’s decision to save some regardless of a person’s faith or works.
Steps to Learning	Read the Canons of Dort, Head 1, articles 8-11 and Romans 8:18-39 . 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 did the Arminians believe with respect to general and particular election?</p> <p>By general election, the Arminians believed that it was God’s decision before time began that faith would be the condition upon which a person is saved. By particular election, the Arminians believed that God would actually save a person in time and space because he looked down the corridor of time and saw that the person believed and on that basis elected him. But this election could be lost if the person lost their faith; if the person maintained his faith then he election would be secure.</p> <p>How does the Canons of Dort, head 1, article 8, respond to the Arminian error?</p> <p>The Canons state that, according to the Scriptures, election is not of many kinds. No, the Scriptures state that there is a single good pleasure, purpose and plan of God’s will that he chose some to salvation. God’s election is not based on a person’s faith. In fact, Romans 8:30 states that even glorification in heaven is a completed act in God’s mind.</p> <p>What error is article 9 responding to?</p> <p>The Arminians argued that the Scriptures use of the word “foreseen” means that God elects a person based on the faith that God saw that a person had in time and space. Article 9 argues, from the Scriptures, that election is the source of each of the benefits of salvation including faith, holiness and other saving gifts and eternal life itself. Paul says in Ephesians 1:4 that God chose us that we should be holy and blameless before him in love. When Paul uses the word “foreknowledge” according to 1 Peter 1:1-2, 18-21 and Romans 8:29, God means that he knows a person beforehand in covenant with him and this is why his people responds to Christ in faith.</p> <p>Summarize articles 10 and 11.</p> <p>In these articles, the Canons argue, that God chooses some people merely according to God’s good pleasure and that this election is unchangeable.</p>
Bible Reading	2 Thessalonians 2 – 1 Timothy 6 (Reading through the New Testament)