

**TWO DISCOURSES ON THE  
POPULAR  
OBJECTIONS TO THE  
DOCTRINE OF ELECTION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649349210

Two Discourses on the Popular Objections to the Doctrine of Election by Henry A. Boardman

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Cover @ 2017

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**HENRY A. BOARDMAN**

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TWO DISCOURSES

ON

THE POPULAR OBJECTIONS

TO

THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION.

BY

HENRY A. BOARDMAN, D.D.

PASTOR OF THE TENTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA.

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Philadelphia:

WILLIAM S. YOUNG, PRINTER,—50 N SIXTH STREET.

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1849.

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ENTERED according to the Act of Congress, in the year  
1849,

By A. W. MITCHELL, M.D.,

In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Eastern  
District of Pennsylvania.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

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Philadelphia, Dec. 30, 1848.

REV. HENRY A. BOARDMAN, D.D.

*Dear Sir:*—The undersigned, members of the congregation under your pastoral care, listened with much interest to the Sermons recently preached by you, on what is popularly termed the subject of ELECTION. On reflection, it has seemed to us that so many of the views which the advocates of that time-honoured and vital doctrine are called upon to discuss in private life, are there considered, that the publication of the discourses could not fail to produce extensive practical benefit. Permit us, therefore, to request that unless an objection to such a course shall present itself to your mind, you will furnish us with your manuscript for this purpose.

We are your attached friends,

WM. A. PORTER,  
CHAS. B. PENROSE,  
W. H. DILLINGHAM,  
JOHN R. VOGDES,  
MOSES JOHNSON,  
C. B. JAUDON,  
A. W. MITCHELL,  
WM. HARRIS.

Philadelphia, Jan. 2, 1849.

GENTLEMEN:

The Sermons you have requested for publication, were prepared and preached under a strong conviction that the doctrine of election was by one large class of persons misunderstood, and by another grossly perverted. The popular conceptions of the doctrine are those which have been supplied by its adversaries; and the objections to which these are justly obnoxious, have been somewhat industriously employed to bring the doctrine itself into discredit, and even to discourage inquiry into its scriptural authority. From this cause, doubtless, the feeling has come to prevail, that the whole subject is one which had better be let alone; and that the pulpit should confine itself to topics of a less mysterious and more practical nature. But surely "all scripture is profitable:" truth is in order to holiness: and if election be taught, and very prominently taught in the word of God, it is not only our duty to receive it, but the belief of it must tend legitimately to promote personal religion and real peace of mind. No one need fear as to the *tendency* of any doctrine of the Bible. It is when the sacred truths of revelation have been deformed and caricatured, that they exert an influence prejudicial to sound morality, or minister to the alarm of timid and doubting Christians. In no other way can we explain the state of feeling now so common respecting election—a doctrine so clearly and



unequivocally taught in the Scriptures, that nearly all the Reformed Churches have embraced it in their Confessions, and the due "consideration of which (as the Church of England says in her Articles) is full of sweet, pleasant, and unspeakable comfort to godly persons."

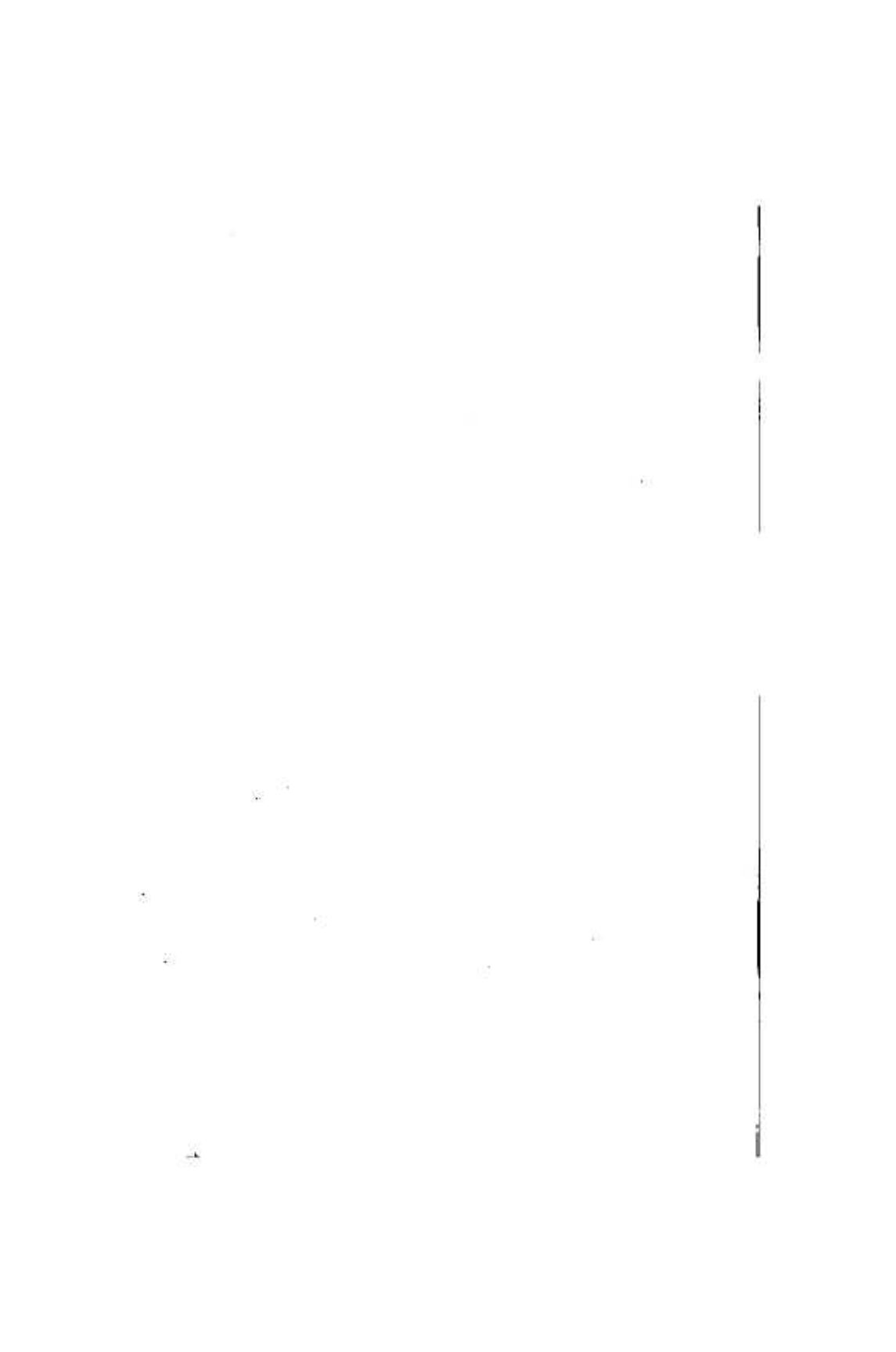
It was with a view of removing misconceptions and vindicating the doctrine from the more specious of the common objections urged against it, that the following discourses were written. This, I hope, will be kept in mind by those into whose hands they may fall. Had my object been to discuss the doctrine itself, the whole frame-work of the argument would of course have been different, and the scriptural proofs of the doctrine would have been cited in due form.

I am gratified to learn by your polite note, that the Sermons have not, in your judgment, entirely failed of their mission; and in the hope that they may, by the blessing of God, be still further useful, I submit the manuscript to your disposal.

I remain, gentlemen, with great respect,  
Your friend and pastor,

H. A. BOARDMAN.

MESSES. WM. A. PORTER, CHARLES B. PENROSE,  
WM. H. DILLINGHAM, JOHN R. VOGDES,  
MOSES JOHNSON, CHARLES B. JAUDON.  
A. W. MITCHELL, M.D. WM. HARRIS, M.D.



## DISCOURSE I.

### THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION NOT DEROGATORY TO GOD.

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love; having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the Beloved."—EPISTLES 1. 4—6.

No doctrine of Christianity has more reason to complain of the treatment it has received, than the doctrine of Election. With many persons, the very name is an offence; and they will scarcely listen even to an exposition of those texts of Scripture in which the word occurs. It is associated in their minds with all that is unjust and vindictive: and the attempt to establish it by argument, disturbs their equanimity, if it does not even awaken their resentment. The unfairness of the course here