

DISSERTATION ON THE END FOR WHICH GOD CREATED THE WORLD. *by Jonathan Edwards*

A Study- Scott Doherty May 9 – June 13 2014 Reformed Presbyterian Church, Oswego, NY 7:00PM-8:30PM

May 9 - Introduction

Introduction—Explanation of terms and general positions.

Terms

Kinds of Ends

1. Chief end - most valued relative to other ends
2. Ultimate end / Last end - valued and sought on its own account and for its own sake
3. Subordinate end - valued not on its own account but for a further end
4. Immediate end / Next end - the thing now directly aimed at, no steps removed
5. Nearer end - a subordinate end closer in a chain than a further end
6. Further end - a thing aimed at through at least one step removed
7. Inferior end - less valued relative to another end
8. Higher end - a thing more valued relative to other ends

Concepts involved in ends

1. What is an end? That which you desire to bring about: a state of affairs – in whatever realm
2. Value – desire, delight, gratify, loves, takes pleasure in, enjoying, agreeable
 - a. For its own sake
 - b. For a further end
 - c. Higher or lower valuing
 - d. The *final* reason for all seeking or choosing (definition of the will)
3. Order
 - a. Last
 - b. Not last (means)
 - c. Both +
4. Seek – aim at, obtain
 - a. Willing (inclination of the heart)
 - b. Doing (acting to bring about the end)

Propositions about ends

1. Chief end and ultimate end are not always the same
2. Chief end is always an ultimate end
3. Ultimate end not always a chief end
4. Chief end opposite to an inferior end
5. Ultimate end opposite to a subordinate end
6. There can be a chain of subordinate ends leading to an ultimate end
7. + A thing can be both subordinate and ultimate (in two different ways)
8. Some subordinate ends may be more valued than some ultimate ends *

General Positions

1. * A subordinate end is never valued (as a chief end) above its own ultimate end
2. A subordinate end may be equally valued with an ultimate end if it is necessary and sufficient to the ultimate end
3. When there is only one ultimate end, it is chief above all other ends
4. What we seek **for its own sake** is our “last” or “ultimate” end
5. There is only one ultimate end when one thing only is sought **on its own account**
6. The one “original” ultimate end of all creation governs all God’s works
7. In the “highest sense” of God’s ultimate end in creation, this end is also the end of all his works of providence
8. The ultimate end of providence in general is the ultimate end of creation
9. There is only one ultimate end of creation if only one end is **agreeable in itself**