

words. Having affirmed that "*election* is one of those things which were done absolutely in eternity" and that "all who were elect were elect as much in eternity as they are in time" he proceeds as follows, "But you may say, does the like affirmation apply to *adoption* or *justification*? My late eminent and now glorified predecessor Dr. Gill, diligently studying these doctrines, said that adoption was the act of God in eternity, and that as all believers were elect in eternity so beyond a doubt they were adopted in eternity. He went further than that to include the doctrine of justification, and he said that inasmuch as Jesus Christ was before all worlds justified by his Father, and accepted by him as our representative, therefore all the elect must have been justified in Christ from before all worlds. Now, I believe there is a great deal of truth in what he said, though there was a considerable outcry raised against him at the time he first uttered it. However, that being a high and mysterious point, we would have you accept the doctrine that all those who are saved at least were elect in eternity when the means as well as the ends were determined." Page 552.

Comment here is quite unnecessary. We shall just make another quotation from the same page and for the present leave Mr. Spurgeon's views on this subject in the hands of the reader. Having stated his belief "that adoption and justification have a very great alliance with eternity and were virtually done then," he proceeds to say, "but nevertheless, while I find the majority of sound divines holding that the works of justification and adoption are done in our lives, I see, on the other hand, in Scripture, much to lead me to believe that both of them were done in eternity, and I think the fairest view of the case, that while they were virtually in eternity yet both adoption and justification are actually passed upon us, in our proper persons, consciences, and experiences in time so that both the Westminster confession and the idea of Dr. Gill can be proved to be scriptural, and we may hold them both without any prejudice the one to the other." After this we need not marvel if Mr.