

## Max Weber and the Westminster Confession with Special Reference to the Doctrine of Predestination

### ABSTRACT

It is well-known that Max Weber, in his most renowned and controversial work *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, deals with the Calvinist doctrine of predestination as one of the most significant factors relevant to the formation of the Spirit of Capitalism in the West. And it is also known that, at the beginning of the second part of the book, he quotes from the Westminster Confession as an authoritative source to give an account of that doctrine. However, how the passages he quotes relate to his unique idea of the doctrine and its influence has not yet adequately been treated so far. This paper tries to make it clear that Weber did not frame his concept of predestination on the Westminster Confession, but on his own idea of a metaphysical, transcendent, absolute, sovereign God, which is quite different from the concept of God developed in Christian tradition. So his interpretation of Calvin and Calvinism, centering on the doctrine of predestination, cannot be accurate, and the conclusions he draws from it might not be valid.

**Key Words** : Predestination, Weber, Westminster Confession