

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD Pt. 5

1. God is SOVEREIGN.

- a. **God's sovereignty means** that God possesses supreme POWER and AUTHORITY so that He is in absolute & ultimate CONTROL and can accomplish whatever He PLEASES.
- b. **God is sovereign... because of His POSITION** (Ps. 97:1; 99:1-3; 103:19; 113:1-6; Dan. 4:17, 25, 34-35), because of His POWER (2 Chron. 20:6; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:3, because of His PLEASURE (Ps. 115:3; 135:5-6; Eph. 1:5, 9), which is borne out by His PROVIDENCE (Esther).
- c. **God's sovereignty extends ... over MAN** (1 Samuel 2:6-8), over NATIONS (Gen. 15:16; Deut. 7:6-8; Hab. 1:6), over HISTORY (Daniel 2; Ps. 135:5-12), over NATURE. (Matthew 6:45), over ANGELS (Psalm 103:20), over SATAN (Job 1:6-12), and over SIN (Gen. 45:5-8; 50:20)

Thus, God is still on the throne of the universe & is working out His plan for human history that will ultimately and rightly GLORIFY Himself and BLESS undeserving mankind by God's amazing and incredible GRACE because of Jesus Christ.

d. We must guard against the imbalance of ...

- (1) erroneously thinking that while God controls history, He must CONDONE sin & evil. (James 1:13)
- (2) viewing His sovereignty apart from His other ATTRIBUTES like omniscience. (1 Pet. 1:2)
- (3) failing to recognize that God has a PERFECT and PERMISSIVE will that is PRINCIPLED (stated in His Word), PERSONAL, and PROVIDENTIAL.
- (4) viewing God's sovereignty as fatalistic instead of DETERMINED, RELATIONAL, and RESPONSIVE.
- (5) theological systems like CALVINISM, ARMINIANISM, or OPEN THEISM.

e. Though God is sovereign

- (1) this does not dismiss human or angelic RESPONSIBILITY for VOLITIONAL DECISIONS.
- (2) this should not cause us to fail to recognize GOD'S part and MAN'S choices regarding ...
 - (a) *The death of Jesus Christ*: Jesus Christ willingly died and rose again in keeping with the plan & purposes, though certain individuals were held specifically GUILTY for His death. (1 Peter 1:18-20; Acts 2:22-24; 4:24-28)
 - (b) *The salvation of man*: God's part: the Father INITIATED & DESIGNED the plan (Acts 2:22-24), Jesus Christ willingly came to Earth and DIED for our sins and ROSE AGAIN (John 10: 11,17-18) to provide salvation for all as a gift, while the Holy Spirit CONVICTS the world. (2 Cor. 4:4; Jn 16:7-11)

Man's part: whoever CHOOSES to BELIEVE in Jesus Christ alone as presented in the Gospel is SAVED (Acts 16:31), FORGIVEN (Acts 10:43) and receives ETERNAL LIFE (Jn 3:16) which he/she can be absolutely ASSURED of because of Christ finished work & God's promises (1 John 5:13).

The biblical balance: While mankind is spiritually DEAD and unable to save themselves from the penalty of their sins through their own efforts, works or religious rituals, God has chosen to display His grace by DRAWING (John 6:44) and SAVING those who choose to COME to Jesus Christ by faith in Him alone (Matt.11:28;Jn 5:39-40,6:35-40; Rev.22:16-17).

Thus, GOD does the initiating, planning, providing, drawing, and convicting, while each sinner must CHOOSE to either receive (by faith) or reject Jesus Christ resulting in eternal salvation or condemnation. (Jn. 3:17-18; 3:36)

f. Though God is sovereign, your decisions as a believer or unbeliever matter & factor into God's plan. (Acts 10)

The significance of this event as recorded in Acts 10 & 11 cannot be underestimated as Luke devotes 66 verses to explain the entrance & confirmation of these Gentiles into the _____ amidst Jewish reluctance & opposition in Acts 10 & 11. While Gentile salvation had occurred in the OT & NT previously (Adam, Abel, Noah, Abram, the Ninevites, the Syrophenician woman, etc.), the conversion of Cornelius & his household is the first recorded testimony of the Church being expanded to include _____, who then become one in the Body of Christ through the baptism by the _____. Yet we observe in these chapters that God must personally transform & transition the perspective of Church-age believers from _____, and from an exclusive OT Jewish nationalistic perspective to a NT universal _____ perspective in order for them to reach out with the Gospel & to welcome Gentiles into the Church by God's grace. (Gal. 3:26-28; Eph. 3:2-6; 1 Cor.12:13)

- (1) The Church was _____ amidst Jewish persecution and Roman rule though believers were slow to catch on & move out. (10:1-2) Applications to us today?
- (2) God wants the lost to be saved more than they do & will give them more _____ if they respond to the truth that they have. (10:3-6) Remember there are open and searching unbelievers that God is drawing, and the Holy Spirit is convicting! (John 6:44, 16:7-11; Heb. 11:6)
- (3) God has entrusted the preaching of the Gospel in this age of grace, to _____ for Christ, not to angels (as this angel could have shared the message but didn't). (11:14) Does God use more those who are willing than those who are not?
- (4) God wants us to understand that we are not under _____ but under _____ in our sanctification & service, and that we must think & respond to scriptural principles under grace, not religious traditions. (10:7-16)
- (5) God uses believers who were _____ to the Lord and willing to be used & _____ in their thinking and conduct. (Rom. 12:1-2; 10:17-20) Are we willing to let God bring us along spiritually and replace HVP with DVP in our thinking?
- (6) God is no _____, and neither should we be, especially when it comes to giving out the Gospel and welcoming and fellowshiping with other believers in the body of Christ regardless of their ethnic backgrounds, etc. (10:17-23)
- (7) God wants us to recognize that _____ will greatly hinder our usability & service to the Lord. (10:24-26)
- (8) God will graciously, sovereignly, and providentially _____ our divine appointments (though we are to pray for open doors, boldness, clarity, etc.) as He wants all to be saved and Christ's Church to be built. (10:27-33)
- (9) God uses a _____ presentation of the Gospel to save & forgive the lost and encourage the saved to exhibit good works as a result of receiving the _____. (10:34-46)
- (10) God wants us to understand that water baptism is the privilege for _____ only (who have been saved by faith alone in Christ alone apart from works) and acts as a means of public testimony & _____ with Jesus Christ directly & the Church indirectly. (10:47-48)