



THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

A GFC DISTINCTIVE



THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IS THE DOCTRINE WHICH TEACHES THAT GOD CONTROLS EVERYTHING AND THERE IS NOTHING THAT DOES NOT FALL UNDER HIS DOMAIN. WE UPHOLD THIS TRUTH AS A CHURCH BECAUSE THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

1. GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER NATURE

The word "sovereign" means "ruler" or someone who is in charge. The Bible says that God is in charge of all things starting with nature because He rules over the world that He created. Isaiah 45:7 says: "I am the One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these."

If you notice, there is a logical progression as you read this text. It says that, since the Lord created the earth, He also causes everything that happens in it. Since He formed the light and the darkness, therefore, He is responsible for what they bring.

Matthew 10:29 also says, "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father." Colossians 1:16 says, "All things have been created through Him and for Him." This latter passage is important because it shows us the scope of God's sovereignty over nature. It shows us how far it reaches. It extends over "all things."

This should be encouraging for us because it means that nature is not outside of God's control. It has not gone haywire. There is no storm, tsunami, hurricane, or disease that does not submit to His powerful hand, which means that you can trust in Him. You can sleep peacefully at night knowing that God is watching over it all.

2. GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER PEOPLE

Not only is God sovereign over nature but He is sovereign over people as well. Not only does He control the world, but He controls the inhabitants that live in it. The sparrows are under His care and so are we.

Proverbs 16:9 says, "The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." Proverbs 19:21 also says, "Many plans are in a man's heart, but the counsel of the Lord will stand." Here the author gives us a simple image of a man who is planning what to do. He gets up in the morning, he goes over his schedule, and he lines it all up thinking he is in control of it. He believes that he is the one who calls the shots but, unbeknownst to him, there is someone else doing that. Even though he is unaware of it, the Lord is directing his steps.

Psalm 139:16 says: "Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them."

Here the Psalmist says that God has written our days in His book before one of them came to be. He ordained all the events in our lives before they even happened because He is sovereign over people. Since He is God, He is able to do what He wants and no one can resist His will.

This is a good reminder because it means that we are not at the mercy of evil men. We are not at the mercy of an evil world and we are not at the mercy of the evil people who dwell there because God watches over them both. While it sometimes seems that people can do whatever they want to us, the Bible reminds us that they cannot. God restrains their hand. He allows their evil deeds to go so far and no further.

3. GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER THE NATIONS

All of this leads to another area where the Lord is sovereign and that is over the nations. He is in control of what happens with our government. Even the comings and goings of politicians fall under His domain.

Proverbs 21:1 says, "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes." The mightiest person in the ancient world was the king. Nobody told him what to do. Yet here the Bible says that God does. He turns the king's heart like water wherever He pleases.

Daniel 4:35 says: "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, 'What have You done?'"

The interesting thing about this passage is that it was spoken by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, who was one of the greatest rulers of his time. All of the inhabitants of the earth were counted as nothing compared to him. As king of Babylon, he stood over them all. However, Nebuchadnezzar says that even that is nothing compared to God. His throne is puny compared to the Lord's for no one can ward off His hand.

This is important because it means that our future does not rest in the hands of world leaders. It does not sit in the lap of a President or a Prime Minister because God oversees them as well. We are often afraid that our politicians are going to ruin the country. We are anxious that they are going to mess it up and pull it in an evil direction. However, the Bible says that we do not need to be anxious about that. We do not need to be afraid for God is in control of them as well.

4. GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER OUR SALVATION

Finally, we come to one more point: God is sovereign over our salvation. If He is in control of nature, people, and the nations then it only makes sense that He is in control of eternal life. Ultimately, He is the One Who decides what will happen to us in this world and the next.

Second Timothy 1:9 says: "[He] has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity."

Here the Apostle Paul tells us where our salvation comes from. He tells us when God decided to save us; God did it "from all eternity." He did not do it after watching our good works because this preceded any of that. He saved us simply by His own purpose and grace.

Ephesians 1:4 says, "Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him." Now the author states the same idea again by saying that God chose us before the world began. He decided to save us before we were even around to show that our salvation is entirely of Him.

The point here is that if God is sovereign over our salvation then He cannot lose it. If He decides to save you then you will be saved. It is a sure thing.

John 6:39 says: "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day." Most of us are guilty of losing our possessions. We misplace our socks, pens, keys, and our jewelry from time-to-time but Jesus never does that. He never loses anything so that you can be certain you will be saved. He will raise you up.

CONCLUSION

The Bible makes it clear that God is sovereign. He is in control of everything and there is nothing that does not fall under His domain. It is wonderful news to hear because it reminds us that, in this world of evil, we have a good God ruling over it all. In this world of darkness, we have a light that continues to shine.

One pastor said that this is the pillow upon which he rests his head. It is his greatest source of comfort and it is ours as well. We love to rest our heads upon this truth which is why it is a doctrinal distinctive of our church.

If you would like to know more about the sovereignty of God or anything else in this pamphlet, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at ...



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