

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD Pt. 4

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.

- Is "faith" the gift of God? (Phil. 1:29; Eph. 2:8; 2 Peter 1:1; Luke 7:50; Rom. 1:8; Rom. 4:4-5; 1 Cor. 2:5; 1 Thess. 1:8-9)

(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 _____ 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 _____ the plan (Acts 2:22-24), Jesus Christ willingly came to Earth and _____ for our sins and _____ (John 10: 11,17-18) to provide salvation for all as a gift, while the Holy Spirit _____ the world. (2 Cor. 4:4; Jn 16:7-11)

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

- **The biblical balance:** While mankind is spiritually _____ 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 _____ (John 6:44) and _____ those who choose to _____ to Jesus Christ by faith in Him alone (Matt. 11:28; John 5:39-40, 6:35-40; Revelation 22:16-17).

Thus, _____ does the initiating, planning, providing, drawing, and convicting, while each sinner must _____ 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 matter as ...

(1) Righteousness _____ a nation but _____ is a disgrace to any people. (Prov. 14:34; Rom. 1)

(2) _____ (1 Tim. 2:1-5), _____ (Rom. 1:15-16), living a godly _____ (Col. 4:2-6; Phil. 2:14-16), _____ (Phil. 4:14-19), an _____ for other believers (John 13:34-35), etc. will be used by the Lord to evangelize the lost.

(3) Your _____ in faith & in keeping with God's will _____. (James 4:2-3, 5:16)

(4) Your choice to _____ the milk of the Word is required for your spiritual growth. (1 Pet. 2:2, 2 Pet. 3:18)

(5) Your _____ to daily enter the faith-rest life is imperative. (Heb. 4:11; Rom. 12:1)

(6) Your willingness to trust in the Lord for _____ is honored by God. (Prov. 3:5-6)

(7) Your labor in the Lord (by His grace) is not _____ (1 Cor. 15:58) or _____ by God (Heb. 6:10).

(8) Your willingness to _____ as needed is an essential part of the Christian life (2 Cor. 7:9-10; Rev. 2 & 3).