

Sovereignty in Purest Form

By Shawn Reynolds

sermonaudio.com

Bible Text: Matthew 11:25-27; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16

Preached on: Sunday, June 5, 2011

Grace Particular Baptist Church

5725 Imperial Lakes Blvd

Mulberry, FL 33860

Website: www.graceparticularbaptist.org

Online Sermons: www.sermonaudio.com/graceparticular

Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father, most gracious and holy Lord, I praise thy name this morning, Lord, and thank thee for this time, a time to be here, Lord, in this place with thy people. I pray, Lord, that thou would fill this place. Fill it with thyself. Fill it with thy power. Fill it with thy Spirit, Lord, that thou would instruct us this day in the things that thou would have set before us at thy banqueting table, that, Lord, you would show us a more excellent way, indeed, that, Lord, this day that with thy mortifying sword, thou would lop off the deadness, that thou would kill ourselves that we may live unto thee this day. Oh, Lord, may the wisdom of man be left far from this place today. Lord, may our logic and our carnal reasoning be put to death this day and, Lord, may you show us thyself. Oh, Lord, we ask that thou would be pleased to visit us now in this hour and the hour to come. We ask this morning, Lord, as brother Tim's family is not with us, we ask of thy healing upon his home knowing he is not feeling well today, Lord. We ask the divine physician, the one, Lord, thee, who has all things in his hand for healing for him. And, Lord, I thank you for the healing in my family this week and, Lord, also ask for that healing for those in here who are still battling the infirmities and the sicknesses and the things, Lord, that thou sovereign hand has brought for thy children's good. Lord, may I sit, may you make us to sit down at thy feet this day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

It is truly a blessing when the Lord brings you to his feet and he makes you to sit down and to learn at his feet. One of the things that he teaches the child of God that has a great deal of rest in it that we rebel against every day, something that we rebel against, the old man will always rebel against it, the flesh will always rebel against it, our reasoning, our carnality, our attachment to this will world will always rebel against the sovereignty of God. But what a blessing it is to be brought to his feet, to see that he has delivered all things into the hands of his Son. And I don't use that term flippantly this morning, all things.

There are things that are revealed to us and it is just that. That is the only way that we can understand the sovereignty of God, because in and of ourselves, we murmur. We complain when God's hand brings things into our life.

I was tried on that this week. I am tried on that every week. As the Lord would bring what some deem to be cross providences into our lives, things that we wouldn't readily accept if we had control of our lives. But the Lord brings them. And why does he bring them? To teach us more of him, to bring us to an understanding of this sovereignty.

As I alluded to earlier, the apostle Paul wrote in Hebrews that there is a rest that remains for the people of God. That rest is resting in the Lord Jesus Christ. And part of that rest, if not most of that rest, is being brought to say, "Nevertheless, Lord, thy will be done in all matters, big and small."

But, as I said, it is not something I can stand up here and say that it is something that is learned and then you go on about it and every day you accept the sovereignty of God, because that is not true. There is a time when we accept the sovereignty of God and that is the time that he brings us to his feet and he empowers us by a power greater than ours to accept that which he has brought into our life.

The passage that we will begin at today is a very hard and difficult passage to our flesh. It is, because we are so bombarded in this world with this Lord who loves everyone, with this God who wants everyone to repent, this Lord who wants everybody to come to him, this Lord that is so weak that he stands and he just says, "I just wish. I am going to send out an invitation and I hope that there is those that come to me, but I they don't, oh, how sad I am going to be." This world is full of those people. This world is full of that religion. This world is full of that doctrine and it is the doctrine of hell.

I want to take you this morning, I pray that it is the Lord's journey, as we begin in Matthew 11. And as we come to Matthew 11 we are only going to look at a brief two or three verses, but we have got to figure out how we get to where we are going and if we begin in verse 20, Jesus it says, "Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done."¹

Why would you do such a thing? The Lord went from city to city performing miracles and doing healings and doing all of these things that the Father sent to him to perform here on earth and then it says in the holy Word of God this morning that he started to upbraid the cities where he did these things.

Well, then why did you do them in that place? And this is where we begin to see the sovereignty of God. We begin to see the sovereignty of where Jesus had to go, where it was that the Father would send him, where it was his children were. But it wasn't a great mass of children. It wasn't that Jesus was going for the world and then he would start to pronounce woes in the next four verses.

Woe unto Chorazin and woe unto Capernaum and he even compares them to Sodom and Sidon and Tyre. And he said, "The days for them will be better for you in the day of judgment because I preformed many miraculous things, but you would not come to me."

¹ Matthew 11:20.

Why? Why is it in this religion and in this life that we live today, when we are so bombarded with the creature and how much power the creature has, why is it? Is it that we are that stupid, that as the Lord would do many miraculous things and it is greater than anything that man would ever see would be done, but yet in the hardness of heart he would still reject the Lord Jesus Christ.

And many today will preach from pulpits, yes, that is the truth. It is all in man's hand. God has done all he can do and that is a true statement. God has done all that he can do. And he has done it all in his Son. And if his Son hasn't done it, then nothing has been done. And all of this sets the stage for where Jesus now is going to go and that is what I am saying. This is a hard saying what Jesus begins in 25.

“[And] at that time...”² at the time that the Lord upbraided those cities, at the time of this time in the time of space, in the time that the Lord came to say these words. Let these sink down in your soul today. What does the Holy Spirit say to you about these words?

“I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.”³

Does that seem odd to you today? Does that seem odd to you that the Lord Jesus Christ as it was his... as he was one with the Father would look up and thank the Father that the mysteries of the kingdom of God, that all of the gospel of how salvation works and how the Lord came to save sinners, it is an absolute mystery and it is hidden to the world. But he is more specific to who it is hidden to. It is hidden to the wise and the prudent, the wise and the intelligent, the wise in this world, the wise in the world's doings, in the world's religions. There is a reason for that. The prince of the power of the air has blinded their eyes. And they are blinded willingly. And they walk down this path and they see what they perceive God to be in such a dark, malicious light, but yet what they espouse is, man, what they espouse is what man could do to achieve these heights, what man could do. And the Lord shows us right here.

All that I did in all of the miracles and all of the healings and yet he pronounces a woe to those people.

It seems odd. This is where we begin because the account in Luke, the Lord actually in this same account, do you know what the Holy Spirit's terminology there in Luke 10 is? That the Lord Jesus Christ rejoiced in his Spirit. It is the only place in the Word of God where we see that kind of terminology used that he had great joy, that the Lord Jesus Christ took joy in what he is saying now to the Father.

Do you take joy in that today? Do you cry out for man? Do you cry out for the ones that you know that the Lord has not revealed himself to you? Do you sit at the feet of the divine, sovereign electing hand of God? Or are you crying out and saying, “Lord, I

² Matthew 11:25.

³ Ibid.

wouldn't do it that way. Don't you understand? I love these people, too. These people are part of my life. Why haven't you revealed yourself to them?"

And the Lord says, he looks up into heaven. He rejoices in his spirit and he thanks the Father. He thanks the Father for divine sovereignty in election, in divine sovereignty in revelation. And he compares two groups of people. He compares the world... the ones of the world that are wise and prudent, that are wise and intelligent, that are wise in the wisdom of this world. And he says the mysteries of the kingdom of God are hidden to them.

And I am going to hit you a little harder. I pray the Holy Spirit hits you a little harder. Do you sit at his feet this morning when the one next to you, when the one very next to you, two seats down from you, in front of you, behind you, do you accept the sovereignty of God that he has revealed his Son to maybe you and not the one sitting next to you? That is what it is all about. That is what I said. You can't come to this place by yourself. You can't come here and you can't reason it out carnally and you can't reason it out logically and you can't reason it out and say, "You know what? Yes, I can accept that."

And we do. We say, "Oh, yes, we accept that, Lord, that you haven't revealed..."

But then we murmur and then we complain in the very depths of our soul. And I thank thee, Father..."

Those are hard words today in this world, because this world sits in darkness. But that very darkness that the world sits in today they believe to be light. They believe that God has come to the mega churches. They believe that he has set up his place even across the very street over there. They believe they are meeting right now car upon car going in there believing that God is there with them. That is the light or the darkness, whichever way you look at it, that they sit under this day. And that is a hard thing. That is a hard thing because one of those things that us humans like to say is there is safety in numbers. We like numbers. We like a lot of people to be with us. We like to tread the path when we have a lot to go with us because we feel like if we have a lot to go with us, it must be the right way to go when we know the very pages of these holy Scriptures attest to something different. They attest to something of many are called, but few are chosen, that broad is the way that leads to destruction, but narrow is the way that the Lord brings his... on the path of his children. It is a narrow path. And it is more narrow than you and I even want to look at this morning, because it does affect us. It does affect us in the depths of our soul of the ones that we deem to be the ones that we love the most.

Have you been brought here? Have you been brought to sit at the feet of the Lord to say, "I thank thee, Lord"?

And let me tell you something. If you have, this isn't a boastful thing. It is not. It is what the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians when he said, "But by the grace of God I am what I am."⁴

⁴ 1 Corinthians 15:10.

That is a thankful boast. That is a thankful thing Paul said. He wasn't boasting looking around going, "Oh, I thank God I am saved by grace and the rest of you don't know anything about grace, but I know what it is."

And that isn't what Jesus is saying here. We don't sit around going, "Aha, look at us. Now the people across the street are in darkness and, well, good, look at how much better I am than them."

Because I tell you something, dear ones, if the Lord has revealed himself to you today, it is only by his grace. There isn't anyone in here including myself, myself most especially, who has merited the favor of God. It is a hard saying. It is a hard saying because there are some familiar relationships I have in this life. And it is a hard thing. It is a hard thing and I know I can't get here reasoning anything, because my reasoning will always bring me to something. Do you know what that is? Well, there is still time, Lord. There is still time for you, Lord. There is still time for you to work in that one's life, Lord.

No, to be brought here is to see the sovereign God over all things and that is the electing of some and the damning of others and him perfectly glorified and perfectly just in doing so. That is a hard thing and it is not revealed to natural man. In fact, it is not revealed and it is hidden to the wise and the prudent.

Hold your finger there and turn with me over to 1 Corinthians one. Many of you probably as soon as I said that knew exactly where I was headed. And we will just begin in verse 26 and listen to the words that Paul wrote to the church at Corinth through the power of the Holy Ghost. Let's start in verse 26.

"For ye see your calling, brethren..."⁵

Brethren, people of God this is addressed to. Have you seen your calling, because if you have you understand what he is about to say.

"...how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the wise."⁶

When the world looks at this passage we are at this morning it is a foolish thing to them. Why wouldn't you, Lord, make all men to be saved? Why would you even ordain that there would be a hell? It just doesn't make sense to man's logic.

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise;
and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things
which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are

⁵ 1 Corinthians 1:26.

⁶ 1 Corinthians 1:26-27.

despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are.⁷

Why?

“That no flesh should glory in his presence.”⁸

If the Lord has sanctified you and has set you apart for his holy use, there is nothing that you see in yourself that merited that sanctification. There is nothing you see in yourself that says, “Lord, I did this for you and that is why you have chosen me.”

If it is, this morning, you are on the wrong path. You are on the path of being deceived. It is a hard thing to come to these sovereign words, to come to the Lord Jesus Christ.

You know, I was raised to believe that the loved everyone. So it may be a little harder for me than some of you, because I was raised and I was indoctrinated with that, that he wanted everyone to be saved and then, you know, he just... as I opened today, that is the way it looked. He shows you where salvation was and he puts you in the middle and he says, “There is hell. There is heaven. You choose which way you will go.”

But, you know, I don’t see that Lord here. I don’t see him in any of these Scriptures, praise be to God, because that would only be by his grace and by his revelation.

“I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent.”⁹

It is not the wisdom of this world. Sometimes I shudder to sit back and watch those who get so caught up with the wisdom of the world, striving to learn more of the world, the world’s devices, the world’s intelligence. And then finding peace in that and then finding camaraderie in that and then finding that is a good place to be. But to the child of God it is a worrisome place to be. When you see the world starts to agree with you, you better ask the Lord to examine your heart. When the world starts to fawn after you and say yes to things that are coming out of your mouth are good and acceptable to me, you better ask the Lord to search your heart, because this world is at enmity with the Father. Satan is at enmity with the Son. And our flesh is at enmity with the Spirit. And all that three headed enemy is doing all it can to throw this sovereign God off his throne if it were possible, which it is not.

So who has he revealed his truth to? Well, the Lord uses the word “base.” You have revealed them unto base.”

Now just hold your finger there and turn just a little bit over to Matthew 18. This might hopefully give a little light on what these babes are.

⁷ 1 Corinthians 1:27-28.

⁸ 1 Corinthians 1:29.

⁹ Matthew 11:25.

“At the same time...” this is beginning verse one.

“At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”¹⁰

You know, that old man he wants to know these things. And that flesh of ours wants... when that pride of life comes up and we want to know these things, we want to know how we fit into these things. We want to know where our place is, especially if the Lord has done a work in our soul. That old man wants to rise up and go, “You know what? Where is your place, then? Where is your place? You had better find out what that place is in the kingdom of God.”

Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.¹¹

Isn't that what we heard just a couple of weeks ago? Unless you are born again, unless you are born from above you will never see the kingdom of heaven. You will never understand the kingdom of God. You will never enter in the kingdom of God.

And Jesus' metaphor here is he brings this little child and sits him right in the midst of him. And he says, “Unless you are brought to this place, unless you are brought...” And he is spiritually speaking here, because ain't none of us going to find the fountain of youth and go back 20 years or 30 years or 40 years to be a child again. So if you are trying to find this on the physical plain, you are way off. The Lord sends his child right in the middle of them and he says, “This is where you are brought to be. This is where you must be.”

And, see, what that does is it strips us of all of this wisdom that we have gained in this life, this wisdom that we have grown up in, this learning how the world works, this understanding that we grow into all of this knowledge and we get smarter and smarter as we go along.

But the Lord strips us of all that. He said, “This is where you must be brought to. You must be right here where this little child is.”

But I think that they are sitting there going, “Well, Lord, I don't think you understand the question. We asked you who was the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. We didn't ask you about little children.”

¹⁰ Matthew 18:1.

¹¹ Matthew 18:2-3.

And Jesus, as he... “Except ye be converted, and become as this little child, unless you are brought and humbled to this place you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

So what is it we see and understand that when Jesus says, “I am thankful, Lord, that you have revealed these things unto babes,” what is it something that we have learned already about the babes? First of all we must be stripped of sin. They must be... they must have died to self.

And do you know how the Lord does that? He brings you to see yourself. He brings you to see what a wretched sinner you are. He brings that beautiful spiritual and holy law to your soul and he says, “Thou art the man. You are the one who crucified me. You are the one who cried out for Barabbas.”

And then, in the only way that he can, the only way that can pick something so low and in the mire out of the mire, he comes with that gentle loving hand and he picks you up as you are left half dead on that road and he picks you up and he puts you on his back and he carries you back and he nourishes you and he shows you that salvation is only in him, that as long as you are half dead, as long as you are laying there in that road, you are going to be fully dead if you stay there.

But there is a greater than Satan here. And there is a greater than ourself here. And that greater one is the Lord Jesus Christ. And when he brings you and he nourishes you and he binds up all of your wounds, guess what you have just become? You have become as a little child. As the Lord has nurtured you and taken care of you, just as a mother would do a little child, because do you know what this little child is? He is totally dependent upon the caregiver and he is totally dependent upon the Lord Jesus Christ. You must be brought to where this little child is.

Really?

Yes.

“Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”¹²

Oh, to be humbled as this child.

You say, “Well, no, wait a minute. The letter of this word says he humbles himself.”

Well, I tell you, go try it. You go try that in your own strength. You humble yourself and see if you get to where I am talking about. What the Holy Spirit is saying today about where the Lord brings you. You ain't going to strip yourself. You ain't going to strip yourself of your carnality. You are not going to die to self by mortifying yourself. You can't do it. You can't do it. In and of yourself you are going to go to the mire. You are going to stay in this world. You are going to continue with the wisdom of this world and

¹² Matthew 18:4.

you are going to walk after the ones with the wisdom of this world and you are going to believe you have safety in that number.

Let's go back to Matthew. You have revealed these things unto babes. You have revealed all the gospel and all where true life is and you have revealed it to babes. Oh, to be a babe, to be brought to this place and be stripped of all the pride of life and the pride of entitlement and the pride of a name. Oh, Lord, I don't want a name in this earth. I want to be made to rejoice that my name is written in heaven. And the only way that is going to happen is if he strips me of myself and lays me at his feet.

“I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.”¹³

And then, verse 26, I love it, I love it, I love it and I only love it because he has made me to love it, because this is definitely where the rebellion comes in.

“Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.”¹⁴

This is being made to sit at divine, sovereign feet of the sovereignty of God. This is where we are brought, where peace is. Do you see that? Do you see Jesus saying that, Lord, you have revealed them unto babes and I know why you did because it seemed good in your sight.

You know, I have sat back in the last couple of months and I have watched things happen across the United States. I have seen tornadoes take millions, not millions, hundreds of lives. I have seen other things come. We have seen people being shot in other countries, what were deemed to be innocent people shot in the street. And I tell you. It is a hard thing. It is a hard thing to the old man. It is a hard thing and it pulls as the emotions and you sit there and you start to look at these things and you start to get caught up in the news reports and you start to listen to what man is saying and how man is looking at it and there is nothing there but death. There is nothing there but fear and there is nothing there but the carnal reasoning.

But, see, when the Lord brings you here, when he brings you to see in 9/11, when he brings you to see and all that has happened has happened because, “Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.”¹⁵ And the child of God is made to no longer murmur and no longer complain, but accept what God's hand has brought into his life.

Naturally we cannot do this. It is the same with the afflictions that are brought into our lives that some don't seem to go away. Some we rebel at as there is times we accept the Lord's will, but then as we go on and it becomes harder and harder, we start to murmur again. Your only peace and your only rest will be here.

¹³ Matthew 11:25.

¹⁴ Matthew 11:26.

¹⁵ Ibid.

“Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.”¹⁶

Yes, I have this affliction, yes, this affliction is something I will live with the rest of my life, because, Father, you have seen that it is good. You have seen that it is good in thy sight.

No man can come here. No man wants to come here. No man is willing to come here until he is made willing in the day of the Lord’s power.

Then 27 begins with those two words. Oh, don’t flippantly look at those two words today.

“All things are delivered unto me of my Father.”¹⁷

See, the sovereignty is in the hands of Christ and it has been delivered by the sovereign hand of the Father because they are one, you know. And if you don’t think the Holy Spirit is sovereign either, we have got some words for you coming up here.

“All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father.”¹⁸

Do you hear me? Do you hear what Jesus is saying? There is no man. I don’t care what his stature is. I don’t care if it says president. I don’t care if it is a king. No man knows the Father, no man and no man knows the Son, but the Father.

“No man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”¹⁹

It is the only way. It is what the Lord spoke to Zechariah and you don’t have to turn there. I have got it marked. Back in Zechariah chapter four verse six when Zechariah saw the vision, when he saw the olive trees when he said, “Lord, I don’t understand it.

“Then he answered,” in verse six.

“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”²⁰

That is where it all begins. And do you know what? That is where it all ends. It all ends in divine revelation. And do you know what that means? It is not revelation. It is divine

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Mathew 11:27.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ ibid.

²⁰ Zechariah 4:6.

revelation because it comes from the heads and it comes through the power of the head, not ourselves.

And that is why for the rest of today, at least this message, we will spend our time in 1 Corinthians chapter two if you will turn with me over there.

We will begin in verse nine where right comes into view. We are smacked right between the eyes with man's depravity. Absolutely tell me what the Lord is saying to through the apostle Paul here.

Verse nine.

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man..."²¹

Ok, so no man has ever seen, no man has ever heard and nothing has ever entered into the inner man, the heart of man "... the things which God has prepared for them that love him."²²

Well, the thing that is prepared for them, first, is love. We don't have that love. This Lord that we have seen this morning is one that in our natural self we will always rebel against.

Oh, Lord, we wouldn't do it that way. We must be brought here. We must be, as it is said here, we must be prepared. God has prepared. But our eye can't see it. It is the total depravity of man right here. It is the total dependence upon being something being prepared for us to see. Remember, we must be brought as a little child. Do you rebel against that this morning? Do you say that, "I don't want to be brought as a little child. I have lived this life a long time. I have got a lot of knowledge. I have learned a lot of things and I will even boastfully say I have learned a lot of things about God. So for the Lord to say I must be brought as a little child, I reject that"?

And if you do, it is because you reject the sovereignty of God. You reject the sovereign way that he has ordained for you or any of his children to enter into the kingdom.

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."²³

There is the covenant. How do we get to the covenant? How do we have this covenant revealed to us? The people of God know that they have a covenant with their covenant head. They know that in Christ consists all things and in him all things dwell. How do we get there? How is it? Do we just keep achieving and reading and praying and this is how it is going to be done? Or do we get there through some kind of obedience? Do we get

²¹ 1 Corinthians 2:9.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

there by keeping the commandments of God? No. No. It is the pure sovereignty of God. And this is how he does it.

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”²⁴

And do you know what the answer to our inability is? That is what nine is, our total depravity, our total inability to do anything that is pleasing to him, to understand anything that is pleasing to God, totally incapable, but God. There is the whole equalizer. There is the whole taking away the old.

“But God has revealed them unto us by his Spirit.”²⁵

Isn't that what he said in Zechariah? ? Isn't that what Jesus just said in Matthew?

Unless it is revealed to him. It is not revealed in the pages of doctrine. It is not revealed in the pages of theology. It is not revealed even in the pages of this holy Word unless the power of him comes with it, comes before it and comes with application.

“But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things.”²⁶

Notice we are back to those two words. See, when we speak of the Lord Jesus Christ and we speak of sovereignty, we have to use those two words. “All things.”

But we may not be given understanding here on earth and we don't. We don't understand a lot of things. But I tell you what. He is sovereign over all things, every bit of them. And the Holy Spirit must reveal all things. What is revealed is revealed by the Holy Spirit, because he “searcheth all things, yeah, the deep things of God.”²⁷

See, all that that is hidden to the world, all that that as the world goes about their business today, as the world goes on with where they believe they are finding the Lord in their duty and their obedience and their alms giving and their praying in front of people, see, the Spirit searches all things. He searches the deep things of God.

And then verse 11 kind of brings it home to us.

“For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?”²⁸

See, you know, just when we thought we were stupid we do have knowledge. Now we have a knowledge of ourselves.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ 1 Corinthians 2:9.

²⁶ 1 Corinthians 2:10.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ 1 Corinthians 2:11.

My daughter and I were talking about that yesterday. She was telling me what comfort the Lord has brought in her life, but yet how many times that the Lord does comfort us we are still left to question even at times whether we are God's children or not. We are brought in those times of lowness to say, "Lord, I don't know."

But, see, there is something about man. There is something about each one of you in here that is unique to yourselves and that is you know yourself. You know what your thoughts are. You know what is going on in here.

See, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?"²⁹

We have a knowledge of ourselves. But do you know what? We have no knowledge of God in ourselves without God. That is what he is saying.

"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."³⁰

That is why we cry out to the Lord to search our hearts, because what we see in our hearts is vastly different. I mean, we see depravity. We see... but we don't see the recesses of our hearts. The Lord must search them out. And do you know what? We are never going to see him without him revealing himself.

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world."³¹

Do you hear that? And that is the trying thing this morning. That is the trying thing because as the Holy Ghost here compares two things, we have to compare those things. Do you know what the spirit of the world is? More of the world, the people of the world. Do you find good communion with the people of the world? Do you find yourself sometimes going, "You know, I hit it off well with them."

But see, the people of God you... the Lord is going to bring you here. And he is going to show to you that I haven't given you the spirit of the world and if you are there with the world and you are coexisting with the world and your mind is worldly mindedness and there is no thought of the Lord, guess what? As clear as these Scriptures are, there is no working there. Don't deceive your... well, you are going to deceive yourself. But you can't deceive the Lord and you can't deceive the people of God because the people of God, as we will see here at the end of this passage, the people of God have the mind of Christ. They have the revelation of the Lord. And when they are sent there to compare the things of this world with the things of Christ, they don't compare. They pale.

In fact, the child of God hates them. The child of God wants to be weaned so much from this world that that is his cry day and night to the world. Oh, Lord, take me off this world.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ 1 Corinthians 2:12.

Take me off my dependence of the things, the nature, the lust, the carnality of my thought.

I struggled with that this morning. I tried to sit down and look at this passage and ask the Lord to prepare me for today. I had such carnal thoughts coming in my mind and I couldn't. As hard as I tried to come here and to study, I couldn't do it. . And that is the Lord showing me you can't. You must be brought.

And, you know, I am not sitting here to tell you that the Lord doesn't do it. Because that is the thing.

Everybody, oh, well, the Lord does it then I may never come to him.

You are right. You may never. But the Lord does bring his children to him in the time and season that he does. And he brings them there to nourish them and to strengthen them and to revive them again because the new birth has already taken place. And now we rely, we have that seed in us. We have the Lord in us. We need him to speak to us. We need him to lead us. We need him to guide us because we are just as dependent now as we were before, before the new birth, after the new birth. We didn't know our dependence, but now we know it more than we have ever known it before in our life. Without him we can do nothing.

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”³²

You see, that is the thing. Those things that are freely given to the people of God are faith. Those things that are freely given to God is the graces of the Spirit, the love, the joy, the peace. But do you know what else is freely given of God to his children? Repentance. Repentance isn't found in the world. Esau thought it was and he sought it carefully with tears. But it wasn't given to him. Judas thought it was. He threw the 30 pieces of silver back down on the temple floor. And the he went out and hung himself because repentance is a gift of God. And the Spirit teaches all of these things that are in the store houses of our Joseph, all of these things that are in the hands, all things that are in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth.”³³

We don't talk of faith in the way that man's wisdom looks at faith, that you have got to have faith. You just have got to believe. Just do it.

We don't speak that way. The people of God's language is not that way. They don't understand that kind of logic, because they have tried it themselves. They have tried it and they have failed.

³² Ibid.

³³ 1 Corinthians 2:13.

“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”³⁴

Do you notice what the child of God compares things with? Do you notice what the work of God in the soul does? He compares spiritual with spiritual. It is not spiritual with the world to see which one is better. It is not spiritual with carnal, oh no. There is no comparison.

Why? Because we have the mind of Christ. This is the new man. This is the spiritual man. This is the one that is contrary to the one we are just about to speak of.

“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him.”³⁵

And there is a lot that will listen now today and hear this message and they are thinking there is a lot of foolishness in it. There is a lot of foolishness in Jesus not saving the world and not mourning over the world and thanking the Father for hiding the gospel mysteries. And there is. There is a lot of foolishness in that to the natural man. And I don’t know what to tell you. I can’t reveal it to you. That is what these passages say.

“Neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”³⁶

They are taught in the sovereign court of God the Holy Spirit. That is where they are taught. That is where they are learned and that is where they are applied.

“But he that is spiritual judgeth all things.”³⁷

And, dear ones, I have got to say something about this passage. The key to this is he that is spiritual, because we are not always spiritual. So don’t walk around thinking you have judgment over all things, because you don’t. It is only when you are spiritual. It is only when the Lord teaches you, because, see, that is the thing. We have this old man. We have this spot that remains. We have these carnal thoughts. And they are always mixed, but the only thing pure is what the Spirit has done. It is what Christ has done. It is the mind of Christ.

That old man never gets better. I don’t care who tells you that. I don’t care what you read. I know there is a lot of ... the old man is going to get better. It is called progressive sanctification. It is another doctrine right out of hell. The old man never gets better. The old man is going to perish. The old man will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the new man, the new man he judges all things because he has the mind of Christ.

“Yet he himself is judged of no man.”³⁸

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ 1 Corinthians 2:14.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ 1 Corinthians 2:15.

See, that is the other thing. Does it bother you when you are judged of man? Does it bother you when man says, “No, what you say is false and the way you say that is wrong”? Does it hurt your feelings? Because, see, that is the old man. See, the new man, the spiritual man he is judged of no man, because it is the truth of God.

This isn't cockiness. This isn't haughtiness. Believe it or not, this is living in the humility of Christ that everything is of him, by him and through him.

“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him?”³⁹

Jeremiah said it this way.

“For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard it?”⁴⁰

Paul said it this way in Romans.

“For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?”⁴¹

Job said the same thing, was brought to say the same thing.

“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him?”⁴²

This is how do we rebel against the sovereignty of God? And the child of God is brought to not rebel. He is brought to sit at the feet and say, as the Lord said, “because it seems good in your sight, it is good in your sight.”

“But we have the mind of Christ.”⁴³

I have alluded to that two or three times. We have the mind of Christ.

I didn't know how to sum up that mind of Christ, so I let the Scriptures do it and the Lord led me to John 15:15. And that is where we find the mind of Christ which would make sense as we are right slap in the middle of a chapter where the Lord is saying, “Abide in me, that I am the vine and ye are the branches that without me you can do nothing.”

So in John 15:15 Jesus says this.

“Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth.”⁴⁴

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ 1 Corinthians 2:16.

⁴⁰ Jeremiah 23:18.

⁴¹ Romans 11:34.

⁴² 1 Corinthians 2:16.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ John 15:15.

Do you remember what Paul said? We are no longer servants, but sons.

“For the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”⁴⁵

And that is the mind of Christ, that he reveals in his sovereign will and his sovereign pleasure, in his sovereign time what he wills to reveal to his Church. And that is the mind of Christ that the people of God have.

And it is no accident that it is found here in the union that we have with the Lord Jesus Christ.

I know there was some things said today that are very hard to the flesh, but I pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal to you today and would speak his sovereignty to your soul, he would say to you today that you are God’s child, that he has revealed to you that you have the mind of Christ and that he would exercise and lead and give you faith to believe and to walk in this life, the only way we can in the day of his power.

Let’s pray.

Dear heavenly Father, most gracious and holy Lord, I pray, oh Lord, thou would send thy Spirit, send thy power for thy name’s sake and for thy glory alone in Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

⁴⁵ Ibid.