

The Sovereignty Of God

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Few speak of it. Others pay but lip-service to it. Yet this is the fundamental truth upon which rests all doctrine and practice.

That God is sovereign means that He is in complete control of all things (Job 42:2, Is. 40:25, 26, I Tim. 6:15, 16, Rev. 11:16, 17). It means that He controls and directs all things according to His own purpose and good pleasure (Ps. 135:5, 6, Dan. 4:34, 35, Eph. 1:11). It means that He is God!

He controls the things of the creation, the weather, the seasons, the earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, sun, moon, and stars - everything (Job 37:2-13, Is. 29:6, Matt. 10:29, 30).

He rules over the life and death of every individual (Ps. 31:15, Ps. 139:1-13).

He rules over all men, great and small (Ps. 2, Prov. 16:9, Is. 40:15, Dan. 4:17), even over their hearts and thoughts (Prov. 16:1, 21:1).

He rules even over the devil and the fallen angels (Job. 1:12, 2:6, Rom. 16:20).

He sovereignly rules also in all that belongs to our salvation. This sovereign God has chosen His own people from eternity (Eph. 1:4). He gives them to Christ and draws them so that they come to Christ (Jn. 6:37, 44). God opens the heart of the sinner so that he believes (Acts 16:4, Eph. 2:8). Though we are called to work our our salvation, we are able to do that only because God works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure (Phil. 2:12, 13). Even the good works a Christian does are foreordained by God (Eph. 2:10). It is God who preserves and glorifies His people (Phil. 1:6). All this follows from the truth that He is sovereign.

This has all sorts of important implications. In the preaching of the Gospel it means that God cannot be presented as a Beggar who depends on the will and decision of the sinner in order to save him. In worship it means that our goal is not self-gratification, but the glory of God. In every-day life, it means that we need not fear. Our God is able to help us!