



(#20)

The role of "God's sovereignty" in salvation...  
not the world's counterfeit type of "sovereignty."

## Proclaiming the GOOD NEWS in the Book of Acts



- ❖ If the APOSTLES didn't understand the GOOD NEWS,  
then NONE of us do!
- ❖ If OUR "good news" doesn't agree with theirs,  
then WE are in the wrong!

## Proclaiming the



- ❖ Not always what people want to hear...  
but definitely what they need to hear.

It's PRIMARY FOCUS (i.e., what people need told)  
has to do with Jesus and salvation.

BUT

another issue

keeps coming up:

## The SOVEREIGNTY of GOD

It is because of this that salvation is possible!

## The SOVEREIGNTY of GOD

Imperceptible to our senses.

Cannot be seen, felt, touched, heard or tasted.

Can be known only when God reveals it  
(prophecy) ... or after it occurs (history).

✨ But it's the only reason that anyone is saved! ✨

## SOVEREIGNTY makes SALVATION possible!

By nature, people have  
no interest in the God of  
the Bible.

... there is no one who seeks God.  
Romans 3:11b (CSB)

We could be exposed to  
the truth all day long...  
and we wouldn't want it.

"All day long I held out my hands  
to this disobedient and stubborn  
people!"  
Romans 10:21b (NET)

But because of God's  
sovereign mercy, some  
of us will find him...  
even though it's against  
our nature!

I was found by those who were not  
looking for me;  
I revealed myself to those who were  
not asking for me.  
Romans 10:20b (CSB)

But it has to be  
the Bible's type of  
sovereignty!!



❖ Not the world's counterfeit.

🔴 **THE WORLD TEACHES:** God's sovereignty and human responsibility work AGAINST each other.

🔴 **THE BIBLE TEACHES:** God's sovereignty and human responsibility work WITH each other.

Because of the world's influence, we tend to view them as incompatible opposites.

It may take some time to undo what we learned from the world, before we can see them as working together.

#### WHEN WE START WITH THE WORLD'S VIEW ...

- It will never stop being a confusing and conflicting issue.

If God is sovereign,  
how can I be responsible  
for my actions? \*



- Depending on how you "reconcile" the two, you could end up with:
  - a cruel tyrant god,
  - a weak powerless god,
  - a helpless human "puppet."

\* (Stop "clowning around" with the world's lies!)



The Bible never portrays sovereignty and responsibility as enemies in conflict.

But I WANT to be saved!

Well, I want you to go to hell. And I'm bigger than you, so you lose!



Guess who I just saved!

I WANT to be saved!

The Bible always portrays sovereignty and responsibility as friends in cooperation.

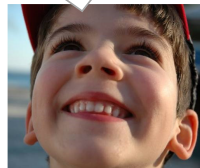


#### WHEN WE START WITH WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ...

- Life can have hope and meaning.

Since God *is* sovereign,  
I can make choices and be  
responsible for my actions!

- Our choices will be meaningful – having both value and consequences... and this includes matters related to salvation!



Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful desires will harvest the consequences of decay and death.  
But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

Galatians 6:8 (NLT)

## Since sovereignty and responsibility work together...

- ☞ Our choice to pursue salvation will be a genuine endeavor on our part.

[Peter] warned them; and he pleaded with them, "**Save yourselves** from this corrupt generation."

Acts 2:40b (NIV)

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, **you will save** both yourself and your hearers.

1 Tim. 4:16 (NIV)

To those who by **persistence in doing good** seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

Romans 2:7-8 (NIV)

- ☞ At the same time, we will give God credit for our salvation... and rejoice in what he has done!

**He saved us**, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5 (NLT)

For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is **the gift of God**; it is not from works, so that no one can boast.

For **we are his workmanship**, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we may do them.

Eph 2:8-10 (NET)

**God has given repentance** resulting in life even to the Gentiles.

Ac 11:18b (CSB)

## Sovereignty guarantees the significance of everything – (what God does for us, what we do... and what the unsaved do.)

- ☞ God working for us (his people).

... God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.

Philip. 1:6b (NLT)

- ☞ Us working for God.

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Cor. 15:58b (NIV)

- ☞ The works of the unsaved.

- ❖ God's sovereignty, as related to the worst evil ever committed, does not remove the responsibility of those involved.

This man [Jesus] was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, ...

Acts 2:23-24b (NIV)

- ❖ Nor does it remove their obligation to repent.

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

Acts 2:37-38a (NIV)

## When we pay attention to what Scripture tells us about sovereignty and responsibility working together ...

- ☞ We can see that they do work together.
- ☞ We may learn some aspects of how they work together.

### BUT...

- ☞ We shouldn't expect to understand everything about it.
  - ❖ We are limited creatures, not the infinite Creator.
  - ❖ This calls for humility and trust on our part.

## YOUR OPPORTUNITY

### IF YOU ARE NOT SAVED: Focus on your responsibility.

- You need to repent and trust Jesus for salvation and for the ability to obey him.
- IF YOU REFUSE, then you should fear God's sovereignty... because God guarantees that you will reap the consequences of your choice.

### IF YOU ARE SAVED: You can rejoice in sovereignty!

- The good work God began in you will be someday completed!
- He will reward you for the good work you did for him.

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