

## **DANGER**

**When we are in the hands of chance, looking in hope to the law of averages, as long as we trust for survival to our ability to outthink or outmaneuver the enemy, we have every good reason to be afraid. And fear torments us.**

**To know that love is of God, and to enter the secret place, leaning upon the arm of God, this and only this can cast out fear. Then the deep torment of fear is gone forever. God is love, and God is sovereign. His love inclines Him to desire our everlasting welfare, and His sovereignty enables him to secure it. Nothing can hurt a good man who lives to please God and not just himself.**

**God's love tells us that he is friendly, and His Word assures us that He is our friend and wants us to be His friends. No man with a trace of humility would first think that He is a friend of God. The idea did not originate with man. God Himself said that Abraham was His friend. Audacious faith dares to believe the Word and claim friendship with God.**

**We do God more honor by believing what He has said about Himself and having the courage to come boldly to the throne of grace, than by hiding in self-conscious humility among the trees of the garden.**

**Acts of self-sacrifice are common to love. Jesus Christ said of Himself that "greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." "Here is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the Propitiation for our sins."**

**God enjoys His creation. The Apostle John said that God's purpose in creation was His own pleasure. God is happy in His love for all that He has made. The Lord takes great pleasure in his saints.**

**God hates sin and can never look with pleasure upon an iniquity, but where men seek to do God's will, He will respond in genuine affection. Christ with his atonement has removed the bar to divine fellowship.**

**Now in Christ all believing souls are objects of God's delight. "God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were sinners, Christ died for us." "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."**

**The love of God is one of the great realities of the universe, a pillar upon which the hope of the world rests. But it is a personal, intimate thing too. God does not love populations. He loves people.**

**God's wrath is His utter intolerance of whatever degrades and destroys. He hates iniquity as a mother hates the disease that takes the life of her child.**

**God sovereignly decreed that man should be free to exercise moral choice, and man from the beginning has fulfilled that decree by making his choice between good and evil. When he chooses to do evil, he does not thereby countervail the sovereign will of God but fulfills it. God does not set which choice the man should make, but that he should be free to make it.**

**Perhaps an illustration might help us to understand. An ocean liner leaves New York bound for Liverpool, England. Its destination has been determined by proper authorities. Nothing can change it. This is at least a faint picture of sovereignty.**

**On board the liner are several hundred passengers. These are not in chains, neither are their activities determined for them by decree. They are completely free to move about as they will. They eat, sleep, play, lounge about on the deck, read, talk, altogether as they please. But all the while the great liner is carrying them steadily onward toward the predetermined port.**

**Both freedom and serenity are present here and they do not contradict each other. So, it is with man's freedom and the sovereignty of God. The mighty liner of God's sovereign design keeps its steady course over the sea of history. God moves undisturbed and unhindered towards the fulfillment of those eternal purposes which he purposed in Christ Jesus before the world began. We do not know all that is included in those purposes, but enough has been disclosed to furnish us with a broad outline of things to come and to give us good hope and firm assurance of future well-being.**

**We know that God will fulfill every promise made to the prophets. We know that sinners will someday be cleansed out of the earth. We know that a ransomed company will enter into the joy of God, and that the righteous will shine forth in the Kingdom of their Father. We know that all created intelligences will accept Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God their Father, and that the present imperfect order will be done away, and a new heaven and a new earth will be established forever.**

**Certain things have been decreed by the free determination of God, and one of these is the law of choice and consequences. God has decreed that all who willingly commit themselves to his Son Jesus Christ and the obedience of faith shall receive eternal life and become sons of God. He's also decreed that all who love darkness and continuing rebellion against the high authority of heaven shall remain in a state of spiritual alienation and suffer eternal death at last.**

**Whoever is on God's side is on the winning side and cannot lose. Whoever is on the other side is on the losing side and cannot win. Here there is no chance, no gamble. There is freedom to choose which side we shall be on but no freedom to negotiate the results of the choice once it is made. By the mercy of God, we may repent a wrong choice and alter the consequences by making a new and right choice. Beyond that we cannot go.**

**Jesus Christ stated it plainly. "He that is not with me is against me. And no man comes to the Father but by Me". The gospel message embodies three distinct elements. An announcement, a command, and a call. It announces the Good News of redemption accomplished in mercy. It commands all men everywhere to repent and it calls all men to surrender to the terms of grace by believing on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.**

**We must all choose whether we will obey the gospel or turn away in unbelief and reject its authority. Our choices are our own. But the consequences of the choice have already been determined by the sovereign will of God, and from this there is no appeal.**