

## **THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**

**“Who would not fear You, oh Lord God of hosts, most high and terrible? For You are Lord alone. You have made heaven and the earth and all things in the earth, and in your hand is the soul of every living thing”.**

**God sovereignty is the attribute by which He rules his entire creation, and to be sovereign God must be all knowing, all powerful, and absolutely free. He must be free to do whatever He wills to do anywhere at any time to carry out His eternal purpose and every single detail, without interference. To grasp the idea of unqualified freedom requires a vigorous effort of the mind.**

**Think about the expression “free as a bird”. But to be free as a bird is not to be free at all. The naturalist knows that the supposedly free bird lives its entire life in a cage made of fears, hungers and instincts. It is limited by weather conditions, varying air pressures, the local food supply, predatory beasts and is held in constant check by a net of necessity. Only God is free.**

**“The Lord, the King of Israel, and His Redeemer the Lord of hosts. I am the First, and I am the Last, and beside Me there is no God.” This truth is taught emphatically throughout the whole Bible, that there is one God and that He alone created the heaven and the earth, and all things that are in them. God's attributes are such as to make it impossible for the existence of another God.**

**God sovereignly decreed that men 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, in as much as the eternal decree decided not which choice the man should make, but that he should be free to make it.**

**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 our 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 God's perfections in God's time will receive universal acclamation and that all created intelligences will acknowledge Jesus Christ Lord to the glory of God the Father. The present imperfect order will be done away, and a new heaven and a new earth will be established forever. Toward this God is moving with infinite wisdom and perfect precision of**

**action. No one can dissuade Him from his purposes, and nothing can turn Him aside from His plans.**

**Certain things have been decreed by the free determination of God and one of these is the law of choices 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 has also decreed that all who love darkness and continue in rebellion against the high authority of heaven shall remain in a state of spiritual alienation and suffer eternal death at last.**

**In the moral conflict now raging around us, 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.**

**The whole matter of moral choice centers around Jesus Christ. 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.**