

SOVEREIGNTY, SALVATION, AND SERVICE

Intro. Area most perplexing is sal. Need God's viewpoint-no rights for man. Wonder is that anyone chosen. Most imp't area is service, yet often least thot of.

I. There is a People (of His choice).
Eph. 1:4-5 show a group, time, purpose, motive (love).

Other passages show individuals-

2 Jn 1,13; Gal 1:15-16; Rom 16:13(Rufus)
Jn 13:18 (excludes Judas).

What about others? Rom 9:23; 1 Pet 2:8.

Preach to all.

II. There is a Proceedure. Eph 2:8-9.

1. Basis-grace, no works (Rom 4:4),
God's gift (Phil 1:29).

2. Channel or req. Faith, Jn 3:16.

Can a man bel? certainly bec imperatives

III. There is a Path (of service)

Jn 15:16; Gal 1:15-16.

Eph 2:10.

Purpose of sal--good works readied before
yet my res to walk in them

Proof of sal--good works exhibited as

1 Thess 1.

Concl. Contemplate His will and do it.
Don't speculate. If don't serve that's
clearly not His will. If don't bel. same.

NATURE OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Intro. Diff subj. Most imp't to say enuf or unbalanced. Go only as far as Bible.

I. The Concept.

1. Not Biblical word like atonement, trinity.
2. Eng. means highest, principal, related to soprano, highest female voice. Doesn't tell you how or relationships of highest but fact. Highest ruler is God. Col. 1. Eph 1 tells how He rules. Not nec dictatorial but in control. or wouldn't be highest.

~~fix the characteristics~~ In outworking concept, is close to idea of selection. Used to it. Color, size, abilities, sp gifts, leaders. Is, Jacob II. The Characteristics.

1. It is all-inclusive. Eph. 1:11. But by varying direct means. Direct-Acts 5 Ordinary, 1 Cor 11:30; Most indirect, Rom 1:26-7.

2. Compatible with His character. Loving, Eph 1:4. Wise, Jude 25.

Eternal, Originated in eternity, Eph. 1:4. and extends to eternity future. Gives new dimension. We see and learn of only a little part of God's plan. Like symphony No judge of its wisdom.

Self-glorifying. Eph. 1:12-, 14.

Hard for us bec of earthly perspective. /Ps 78:41
~~Ps 78:10. Ps xxxix yet sin sin.~~

Add to 1. Uses laws and is thereby limited. e.g. gravity. e.g. Gal. 6:7. e.g. preaching, 1 Cor. 1:21, Rom 10:14. If not con'd to be in accord with God's laws, then something wrong with your view of sov.

3. Comforting to bel. Is it bad to be in hand of Gdd like that? Only if don't heed His clear will. In sal or service. Everything imp't includ decision today.

PROBLEMS OF SOVEREIGNTY

1. What's going to be is going to be.
Diff from fatalism bec 1. no intelligence behind fatalism only blind chance.
and 2. fatalism doesn't emphasize means, only ends and decree says means and responsibility nec. part.

2. God is the author of sin. Isa 45:7.
Ezek 28: . God hates sin. God never responsible for commission of sin.
God not caught off guard when sin appeared.
God did design plan that permitted sin but wasn't author of the sin in the plan.

3. Man not responsible bec not free.
Same ? as in Rom 9:19. Ans. God has absolute rights but equally true that in exercising them He has made man responsible. Eating, praying, witnessing.