



GOOD NEWS
for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#21)

We can rejoice in God's sovereignty, because it gives value to our choices. (The world's type doesn't.)

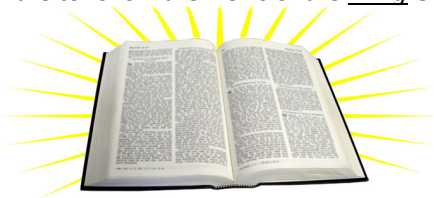
THE WORLD follows the views of dead ancient Greek philosophers.



THEY are the ones who came up with the idea that [God's] sovereignty and human responsibility are in conflict.

THIS is where our society gets its views; this is what it teaches us.


WE are to follow the views of the living God.



HE is the one who tells us that his sovereignty and our responsibility don't conflict.

THIS is what the Bible teaches; this needs be the basis for our thinking.

THE "DOOR OF SALVATION" HAS 2 INSCRIPTIONS



WHOEVER IS WILLING MAY ENTER (ON THE OUTSIDE)

I HAVE CHOSEN YOU (ON THE INSIDE)

OUR RESPONSIBILITY **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY**



WHOEVER IS WILLING MAY ENTER (ON THE OUTSIDE)

I HAVE CHOSEN YOU (ON THE INSIDE)

... and the one who comes to me I will never cast out. (John 6:37b (CSB))

Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, ... (John 6:37a (CSB))

IT GETS EVEN BETTER!

➤ Part of God's SOVEREIGN WILL is that you won't get unsaved! **I HAVE CHOSEN YOU**

OUR FUTURE IS SECURE!
This is the will of him who sent me: that I should lose none of those he has given me but should raise them up on the last day. (John 6:39 (CSB))

➤ Equally true is this: People in this group are willing to exercise their RESPONSIBILITY to learn from God. **WHOEVER IS WILLING MAY ENTER**

A WILLINGNESS TO FIND OUT WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS... AND TO OBEY IT! Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. (John 6:45b (NIV))

SINCE SOVEREIGNTY AND RESPONSIBILITY WORK TOGETHER...

- ☞ **WE ARE FREE** to make choices (=responsibility).
- ☞ **WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY** that God (= sovereignty) will force us to do something we don't want to do.
 - * It won't happen! *

AND IF WE CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS...

- ☞ **WE CAN TAKE COMFORT** in God's sovereignty. Because he is sovereign, we know:
 - God is involved in our salvation. (We don't have the ability to save ourselves.)
 - God guarantees that he will complete what he has begun. (The devil can't stop him!)

THERE ARE LIMITS TO OUR ABILITY TO MAKE CHOICES **BUT SOVEREIGNTY ISN'T ONE OF THEM!**

- ☞ **THERE MAY BE CONSEQUENCES** to our choices that we cannot control (which may limit future choices).
- ☞ **EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES** will influence our options.
 - ✓ The actions of others.
 - ✓ The laws of nature (which God created).
- ☞ **INTERNAL ISSUES**
 - ✓ Our abilities will limit what we can do.
 - ✓ Our choices will be influenced by "the desires of our heart" – which are inherently sinful.

(when a person is told the Good News)
**THE PRIMARY HINDRANCE TO SALVATION:
 THE "DESIRES OF ONE'S HEART"**

- ☞ **WE, BY NATURE, ARE SINFUL AND PREFER TO SIN.**

The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?

Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)

- ☞ **GOD MAY ABANDON US TO OUR CHOICES.**

EXAMPLE: WHEN ISRAEL ABANDONED GOD'S WAYS:

So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own plans.

Psalms 81:12 (CSB)

IF WE CHOOSE TO REJECT THE GOOD NEWS...

= IF WE ARE NOT WILLING
TO TURN TO JESUS AND REPENT OF OUR SIN

- ☞ **WE SHOULD FEAR SOVEREIGNTY**, because it guarantees that we will reap the consequences of our choice.

EXAMPLE: WHEN ISRAEL ABANDONED THE TRUE GOD:

... therefore I have sworn with uplifted hand that they must bear the **consequences** of their sin, declares the Sovereign Lord.

Ezekiel 44:12b (NIV)

IF WE CHOOSE TO ACCEPT THE GOOD NEWS...

= IF WE ARE WILLING
TO TURN TO JESUS AND REPENT OF OUR SIN

- ☞ **WE SHOULD REJOICE IN SOVEREIGNTY**, because it guarantees that we will reap the consequences of our choice.

GOD HIMSELF IS WORKING TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

... God, who began this good work in you, will carry it through to completion on the day of Christ Jesus.

Phil. 1:6b (GW)

ALSO

- ☞ **WE SHOULD REJOICE IN SOVEREIGNTY**, because it gives meaning to our choices and stability to our lives.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Originally said to Israel; but applicable to all of God's people.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

EVEN WHEN LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO US, we know that God will accomplish HIS purposes in our lives!

SOVEREIGNTY AND RESPONSIBILITY WORKING TOGETHER IN SALVATION.

☞ Taken together, they show us whether or not our salvation is genuine.

- Saved people will choose to pursue spiritual growth – holiness and righteousness, forsaking sin, etc.
- When they sin, they repent and restart this pursuit.
- Sovereignty guarantees that spiritual growth will be present in the life of saved people. (The speed of growth may vary.)

TWO ASPECTS OF ONE SOLID FOUNDATION

(Today we might say, "Two sides of one coin.")

- Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription:
- 1 "The Lord knows those who are his," → **sovereignty**
 - and,
 - 2 "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." → **responsibility**
- 2 Tim. 2:19 (NIV)

SOVEREIGNTY AND RESPONSIBILITY AT WORK IN SALVATION

- 1 Everyone whom the Father gives me will come to me. → **sovereignty**
 - I will never turn away anyone who comes to me. → **responsibility**
- John 6:37 (GW)

SOVEREIGNTY AND RESPONSIBILITY AT WORK IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- And so, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only when I was with you but even more now that I am absent, → (Lives characterized by a willingness to obey.)
- 2 continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. → **responsibility**
 - For
 - 1 it is God who is producing in you both the desire and the ability to do what pleases him. → **sovereignty**
- Philip. 2:12-13 (ISV)

SOVEREIGNTY AND RESPONSIBILITY: BEING "BORN AGAIN" AND "BELIEVING" THE GOOD NEWS

- "... no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.
... the Spirit gives birth to spirit.
- 2 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." → **sovereignty** (What the Spirit does to us.)
 - John 3:3b, 6b, 8 (NIV)
 - 1 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." → **responsibility** (What we are to do)
 - John 3:16 (NIV)

HOW DO THEY WORK TOGETHER?

- ☞ It WOULDN'T WORK IN HUMAN INTERACTIONS.
- If humans, limited to time and space, tried to bring sovereignty and responsibility together, there would be conflict. (You couldn't have both!)
- ☞ BUT GOD, AS CREATOR, IS NOT CONTROLLED BY TIME AND SPACE. His sovereignty exists "outside" of those parameters that limit humans!

- Logically, sovereignty comes first. → Everyone whom the Father gives me will come to me. 1
- Experientially, we tend to make our choice before we become aware of God's sovereign acts. → I will never turn away anyone who comes to me. 2
- John 6:37 (GW)

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

- ☞ WE DON'T HAVE TO KNOW EVERYTHING about God's sovereignty, in order to rejoice in it!
- ☞ WE CAN TRUST GOD in this issue, knowing that what he reveals to us is for our good!

Before the creation of the world, he chose us through Christ to be holy and perfect in his presence.

Ephes. 1:4 (GW)

["Before the creation of the world" = before time and space existed!]

Credits (1)

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