

“The Sovereignty of God”

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Introduction:

1. Looked last Sunday at the Presbyterian Church.

a. Government

1. Presbyterian describes government not doctrine

I. Doctrine of Presbyterian Church

1. Doctrinally, we are Calvinistic

a. Other great system is Armenianism

2. Armenianism emphasizes the free will of man

a. God will not, cannot, impose his will upon man

1. Of course, they recognize that God can do things without man.

b. But when pushed to its logical conclusion –

1. God can do nothing except as man cooperates and so in truth God is greatly limited.

c. Would not want to be pushed to that extreme, but when thoroughly logical, that is where it leads.

3. Calvinism emphasizes the sovereignty of God

a. We would not want to say that man does not have a free will.

1. Hold as do Armenians that somewhere in the mind of God these two fit perfectly together. But we do not know how.

b. Pushed to our logical conclusion, we must say that God is responsible for everything in this world and universe and that man cannot help it or do anything about it.

1. Do not want to be pushed there

2. Rather stand on that position, however, than on extreme of Armenianism.

4. Let us look this morning at this doctrine of the sovereignty of God

a. It is the foundation upon which all of the Calvinistic doctrine stands.

b. I do not wish to give a theological discussion, but try and see it purely practically.

II. God is Sovereign in Creation

1. There are many theories about creation.

a. A Calvinist would not argue with you as to how

2. Main thing is that God, in His sovereignty, created this universe including the world.

a. Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

b. God said, “Let firmament be divided.”

c. God said, “Let there be light.”

d. God created man and he became a living soul.

3. This means God is a supernatural God.

a. He deals with things of nature in miraculous manner

1. Many say He cannot

- 2. Must be able to understand
- b. Miracles are entirely possible if we believe in sovereign God
 - 1. He rules over nature
- c. This is demonstrated in Old Testament
 - 1. Crossing Red Sea and River Jordan
 - 2. Death of firstborn
- d. Demonstrated by Christ
 - 1. Stilling tempest
 - 2. Healing disease
 - 3. Raising dead
- 4. Do not have to understand
 - a. We believe God could do it.
 - b. He is sovereign in creation.

III. Sovereign in Providence

- 1. God has a plan
 - a. He did not start this universe and world without knowing what He was going to do with them.
 - b. He did not create man without a purpose
 - c. He has a blue print
- 2. This is shown by His dealing with the Jews
 - a. Called Abraham
 - 1. Made certain promises to him
 - 2. Multitude
 - 3. Blessing to the world
 - b. Providential direction regarding Christ
 - 1. Born of seed of Abraham
 - 2. Born of tribe of Judah
 - 3. Born of a virgin
 - 4. Born in Bethlehem of Judea
 - 5. Would be crucified
 - 6. Would rise from grave
- 3. His defeat of evil
 - a. See in book of Revelation
 - 1. Power of Roman Empire
 - 2. Nero and Domitian
 - 3. Babylon mother of all abominations
 - 4. Yet hear the Book as it declares – Babylon is fallen – Satan is bound – evil is defeated
 - 5. Hallelujah, the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!
- 4. Every knee shall bow before Christ
 - a. Not if they do, but they will.
 - b. The kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 5. The practical aspects of this
 - a. World looks dark now

- b. Does not say the triumph of right shall be tomorrow or next day
- c. But says in the providence of God, because He is a sovereign God, right shall triumph.

IV. God is Sovereign in Redemption

- 1. He determined the method of salvation
 - a. Some men would not have chosen this manner
 - b. Some do not think it is proper or even fair
 - c. But God, as Sovereign, determined that this should be the method
- 2. Man must accept it or reject it
 - a. God says it is only way
- 3. God determines who shall be saved
 - a. Issues invitation to all
 - b. But certain ones are chosen about whom He throws certain graces to be sure they come
 - 1. On outside of door to heaven, is written, "Whosoever will;" on inside, "Chosen of God."
 - 2. Romans 8:28
 - c. If He chose them and called them in His sovereignty, then we Calvinists believe He will keep them.
 - 1. Perseverance or Preservation of the Saints
 - 2. Nothing can separate us from the love of God
- 4. This all depends upon sovereignty of God
 - a. He saves me by His sovereign will
 - 1. Method
 - 2. Who
 - b. Will keep – 1 Corinthians 11:31

Conclusion:

- 1. This doctrine has made great men.
- 2. Given men courage to face life.
 - a. God rules
 - b. McDonald in Princess Pat Regiment during World War I lost fear; he realized he was in the hands of God.