

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

SERMON OUTLINE

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"APPRECIATING GOD, OUR FATHER. WHO IS THE SOVEREIGN GOD "

Ephesians 1:6-12

There is a scene in the Civil War motion picture "Gods and Generals" that is revealing. The movie follows the rise and fall of Civil War hero,

General Thomas Jackson and does not try to hide his Christianity. This morning let us explore together the *Sovereignty of God* and the difference that believing in a God who is in control makes in our work-hard, barely-hanging-on, daily lives. *The sovereignty of God is not a secondary issue but is completely foundational to everything we stand on.*

One of the most misunderstood doctrines in the Bible is "The sovereignty Of God". There are several reasons perhaps for this, but the one reason that the Bible gives is certainly sufficient and that is God's ways and His thoughts are higher than ours. **Isa. 55:9**

I. WHAT IS THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD?

Sovereignty basically means that God is in control of all things, whether or not we see or understand them, that God rules the entire universe, and nothing happens without His knowledge **V-11**.

The Bible makes it very clear that first of all:

- ◆ **HE EXISTED BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE - (Ps. 90:2)**
- ◆ **He CREATED ALL THINGS - (John 1:3)**
- ◆ **He SUSTAINS ALL THINGS - (Col. 1:17)**
- ◆ **He alone CONTROLS ALL THINGS**

1. **He controls the choices of world leaders - (Prov.21:1) "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."**
2. **He controls the course of human events - (Ps. 33:9-11)**
3. **He controls our circumstances - (James 4:13-15)**

He is outside of time and completely free to do whatever He wills to do anywhere, at any time, in every single detail without interference. **He reigns, period.** Because God is the supreme authority, we know He is in total control.

II. WHY IS THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD SO IMPORTANT TO US?

Because it allows His Purposes to be fulfilled again look at **verse 11**. Let me say something that is extremely important to understand.

WE are not the purpose of all things. **HE IS.** It's not about you or me, it's about **HIM**. God's purposes flow around Him and His glory, not around us and ours, understand? If God is really in control, what about all the bad stuff? This is a tricky area.

I need to believe that God knows what He's doing, and I can do that **Isaiah 55:8-9**

And you know what else? You're not going to want to hear this, but I'm going to tell you anyway. **God does not owe you an explanation. AMEN!** You see, **God's not answerable to us. Rather, we are answerable to Him.**

Knowing that God is in total control and has every moment fashioned for an exact purpose should give us confidence in His call to follow. **Knowing God has a design and that is why we are called to walk by faith and not by sight.** You can't follow God if you are in front. You can't follow God if you bail out each time you struggle. **Hebrews 11:6**

III. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY MAKE IN MY LIFE?

Now we need to avoid the attitude of resignation and fatalism when it comes to the Sovereignty of God, but it can make a difference in our lives.

1. **IT GIVES ME COURAGE TO FACE MY DAYS**
(Matt. 10:29-31)
2. **IT HELPS ME GIVE THANKS IN ADVERSITY**
(1 Peter 4:12-13)
3. **IT HUMBLES US IN OUR PLANNING**
(1 Pet. 5:6-7)
4. **IT DEEPENS OUR CONFIDENCE IN HIM**

God's question in **Lam. 3:37** gets to the crux of the subject.

Chuck Swindoll said, "When we cannot fathom why, He knows. When we cannot give reasons, He understands. When we cannot see the end, He is there (Shedding Light...88)."

Remember beloved that Our Lord operates from an eternal agenda, not a daily planner. **(AMEN!)**