

DEFINITION: ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY & POWER (Dan.2:37f; 1Tm.6:15; see Ps.103:19; Mt.28:18)

I. BIBLE: WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT HIMSELF (see Ex.4:5f,12f,28; Job 33:33; 2Tm.3:16f; 2Pt.1:19f; see Mk.4:9,23; Jn.10:16,27; Lk.11:13)

A. LAW (Gen.1:1f; 14:19; 2Sam.7:22)

B. PROPHETS (Is.6:1f; 44:6f; 45:12f; Dan.3:26; 4:2f)

C. PSALMS (Ps.46:4; 115:3f; 135:5f)

D. GOSPELS (Lk.1:32f; 8:28; 10:20; Mt.28:18; Col.1:15f; Heb.12:1f)

E. ACTS (16:17; see 2:23; 4:28)

E. PAUL (Eph.1:11; see Rom.1:20; 8:30; 9:11f; 11:36; Col.1:15f; 2:10; 2Th.2:13; 1Tm.1:17; 6:15)

F. LETTERS (Heb.6:17; 1Pt.1:2; 2:8; Jude 4; Rev.6:10; 14:7)

II. DOCTRINE: HOW WE CAN SUMMARIZE BIBLE TEACHING

A. THE ROOT & FRUIT OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

1. ground: creation (Gen.1:1f; 2Kngs.19:15; Job 38:1f; Is.45:11f; Acts 4:24f & 28; 14:15f; 17:24f; Rev.14:7; contrast Dan.4:30; re-creation; 1Cor.6:20; 7:23)
2. general exercise: providence (foreordination; Eph.1:11b; see Num.24:23; Ps.138:16; Prov.20:24; Acts 4:28)
3. special exercise: redemption (predestination; Eph.1:4f,11a; see Rom.8:29,30; 1Cor.2:7; 2Th.2:13)
4. goal: God's glory (Eph.1:4,5(6); 11(12,14); Rom.11:33)

B. SOVEREIGNTY IN THE PERSONS OF GOD (see 1Pt.1:2)

1. Father: sovereignty in *appointing* all things (Gen.1:1; Eph.1:4,11; 1Cor.15:24; 1Tm.1:17; 6:15)
2. Son: sovereignty in *accomplishing* all things (Gen.1:3(Jn.1:1f); Mt.28:18f; Col.1:15f; Heb.1:1f; Jn.3:35; 5:22)
3. Holy Spirit: sovereignty in *applying* all things (Gen.1:2; 2:7; Jn.3:7; 2Pt.1:21)

C. SOME OBJECTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Godness & Goodness

- a. if God is sovereign, then he is not good (Jms.1:13,17; 3:17; see Rom.3:4; 1Tm.4:4; 6:15,16 /Is.6:1f)
- b. if God is good, then he is not sovereign (above!; Jms.1:18,2f; Ps.135:6f; see Prov.16:4; Rom.9:22)
- c. summary: deal with the data! (see Is.55:9)

2. Divine Sovereignty & Human Responsibility

- a. if God is sovereign then man is not responsible
 - 1) if foreordination then fatalism (Acts 2:23; Rom.9:18f)
 - 2) if predestination then license/despair (Rom8:28&29 / 9:11f,16&10:11f; see Lk11:13; Jms1:5f)
- b. summary: deal with the data! (see Is.55:9)
- c. note: "free will" (image:Absolute,Independent&Holy//relative,dependent&fallen; Gen1:26f; Eph4:24; Col.3:10)

III. PRACTICE: WHAT WE MUST BELIEVE & DO IN LIGHT OF THESE TRUTHS

A. HUMBLE YOURSELF! (Is.55:9; 1Pt.5:6f; see Job 38:1f; 40:1f; 42:1f; Rom.9:20f; illustrations: ropes, gate)

B. BELIEVE IN GOD AS HE REVEALS HIMSELF: SOVEREIGN (Rom.1:20 & 10:17; 2Tim.3:14-17; see Ps.115:3,4f; 135:5f,15f)

C. NOT "THE SECOND BLESSING" BUT A GREAT BLESSING! (Jn8:32; 10:28f /Eph1,2; Rom9; 1Pt1:1f)

D. GOD IS ABSOLUTELY SOVEREIGN THEREFORE WORSHIP HIM! (Eph.1:3f; 6,12,14; Rom.11:33f; 1Pt.1:2&3; Dan.4:34f; Job 40:3f; 42:1f; Is.6:1f; see Ps.96,97,99,115,135)

E. YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RESPONSIBLE THEREFORE:

1. repent & believe the gospel! (Mk.1:15; Rom.10:11,13; Lk.11:13; 2Pt.1:19)
2. speak & do the gospel! (Mt.28:18-20; Jn.10:16,27)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE, FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Suggestions: Don't feel obliged to use every question or every part of every question. Go through and discuss those that are of greatest interest to you. Then consider going back and discussing those that may also be useful, including those that may have seemed a bit difficult. In all questions, keep the outline before to identify entries relevant to the question and to look up appropriate verses listed.

1. What most surprised, puzzled or impressed you from this sermon?
2. What was most helpful? Why? How will you apply it in your daily life?
3. What verses covered were most helpful? How so?
4. What is the *ground* of God's sovereignty?
5. How does He exercise His sovereignty in *general*? What is the *term* for this?
6. How does He exercise His sovereignty in *particular*? What is the *term* for this?
7. What is His *ultimate goal* in all these exercises of His sovereignty?
8. How is Divine Sovereignty exercised by *each Person* of God?
9. Why do you believe that God is *both Sovereign and good*? *How* is this so?
10. Why do you believe *both* that God is Sovereign *and* man is responsible? *How* is this so?
11. What is the nature of *God's* free will? What is the nature of *man's* free will?
12. What is the *proper first response* to a conviction of God's Sovereignty? What *biblical examples* of this can you think of? How do *you* do this on a regular basis?
13. What is the *proper next response* to a conviction of God's Sovereignty? What *biblical examples* of this can you think of? How do *you* do this on a regular basis?
14. *When* did you come to a conviction of the biblical truth of the Sovereignty of God? How has it *made a difference* in your Christian faith and life? How does it *humble* you? How does it *comfort* you? How does it *motivate* you?

For further study:

The Westminster Confession of Faith & RPC Testimony, Chapter 3

The Westminster Catechisms: Larger, 12-14; Shorter, 7-8

Evangelism & The Sovereignty of God by J.I. Packer

The Sovereignty of God by A.W. Pink

The chapter on *The Decrees of God* in any systematic theology textbook (e.g., Berkhof, Hodge