

Preaching the Truth about the Sovereignty of God

Pastor Jose Maldonado

Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church

Nov.23, 2014

“And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”

Daniel 4:35

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.” **Jeremiah 6:16**

We shall take a break from our studies on the plagues of Egypt and pick them up in January. As we come to the end of 2014 this December 29th will be the 25th year I have been the Pastor of Hillburn Drive Grace Baptist Church and as we conclude 2014 I would like to speak on those precious truths that have been the foundational soteriological doctrines of this church from its inception on December 29, 1989. I will speak this Sunday on the Sovereignty of God and then the last 5 weeks of 2014 on the Five Points of Calvinism to which we espouse in this church, not just by name but by practice also. It's not so much that we have embrace these 5 precious doctrines, but they have embraced our hearts and we love to preach these great truths as we whole heartily submit to the Word of God as the faith and practice of our lives. I love the words of Spurgeon when his church building was finished and his first words at the Tabernacle were, *“I would propose that the subject of the ministry in this house as long as this platform shall stand and as long as this house shall be frequented by worshippers shall be the person of Jesus Christ. I am never ashamed to avow myself a Calvinist and I do not hesitate to take the name Baptist, but if I am asked what is my creed, I reply it is Jesus Christ...”* I am also neither ashamed to call myself a Calvinist, but in making that statement I am not a follower of John Calvin and have not read the writings of John Calvin, not saying that he doesn't preach or teach some essence of truth, but that I am not a student or reader of John Calvin, so for that aspect I have no clue as to what he has written or teaches, I do not read nor follow John Calvin. I seek to be a student of the Word of God the Bible first and then study the writings of man. In short I embrace, believe and preach what is known as the 5 points of Calvinism as the essence of our soteriological belief, but I prefer to call myself a Sovereign Grace Baptist instead of a Calvinist. Let us now get to our study of the Sovereignty of God!

What is the meaning or how is the Sovereignty of God defined? How can mere words define this blessed crowning majesty of who God s, SOVEREIGN! We shall try our best to define this subject. The SOVEREIGNTY of God may be define as the exercise of His supremacy and rule as the one and only supreme and independent being. The God of the Bible is the only one in all the universe that has the right, yea the POWER to do absolutely what He pleases! Ps.115:3, *“But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.”* Everything that God does is for His own glory, therefore by the Sovereignty of God we mean that our Great God does as He pleases. As sovereign LORD of heaven and earth He is in sovereign control of all things, all people, all angels, all devils and all created

things, both animate and inanimate objects in directing all the counsel of His Holy Will to the praise of His Glory. God is Sovereign over everyone and over everything. I like what Spurgeon said on this subject, *“There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God’s Sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that Sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that Sovereignty overrules them, and that Sovereignty will sanctify them all. There is nothing for which the children ought more earnestly to contend than the doctrine of their Master over all creation—the Kingship of God over all the works of His own hands—the Throne of God and His right to sit upon that Throne. On the other hand, there is no doctrine more hated by worldings, no truth of which they have made such a football, as the great, stupendous, but yet most certain doctrine of the Sovereignty of the infinite Jehovah. Men will allow God to be everywhere except on His throne. They will allow Him to be in His workshop to fashion worlds and make stars. They will allow Him to be in His almonry to dispense His alms and bestow His bounties. They will allow Him to sustain the earth and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of heaven, or rule the waves of the ever-moving ocean; but when God ascends His throne, His creatures then gnash their teeth. And we proclaim an **enthroned** God, and His right to do as He wills with His own, to dispose of His creatures as **He** thinks well, without consulting them in the matter; then it is that we are hissed and execrated, and then it is that men turn a deaf ear to us, for God on His throne is not the God they love. But it is God upon the throne that we love to preach. It is God upon His throne whom we trust.”*

When we declare that God is sovereign, all we are saying is simply is that God is God! By Sovereignty we mean that God is the most High, He is THE LORD of heaven and earth, overall, blessed forever. A SOVEREIGN GOD is subject to none, yea He is not influenced by anyone. The TRUE and SOVEREIGN God is completely and absolutely independent of all His creatures. The SOVEREIGN GOD does as he pleases, and none can thwart him, yea none can resist him. One of the blessed things about the SOVEREIGNTY of God is that HE is IMMUTABLE and that He does not change and therefore none can change him. Malachi 3:6, *“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”* Not only does God not change but no one can stop him, yea none can hinder Him or keep Him from fulfilling His WILL! Isa.46:9-11, *“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.”* God declares SOVEREIGNLY that absolutely no one can STAY HIS HAND or say unto HIM WHAT DOEST THOU? Our chief text says again Daniel 4:35, *“And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”* God as sovereign means that He sits upon the throne of this universe in full control and dominion and therefore decreeing all things, ordering all things, commanding all things, directing all things, controlling all things, governing all things, and working all things *“after the counsel of his own will”* (Eph. 1:11). Revelation 4:11, says, *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”* Then of course my favorite verses that I love to read often for Wednesday night prayers: I Chron. 29:10-13, *“Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. 11 Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is*

thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. 13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.” David here and in other places acknowledging the truth about the Sovereignty of God to which every saint of God should love, but sad to say that the god of this generation no more resembles the Sovereign Lord of heaven and earth than a 100 watt bulb resembles the mid-day sun. The god of this 21st century makes a mockery of the SOVEREIGNTY of GOD and do not preach Him as clearly declared in the BIBLE! Today’s modern religionist, have a god that is nothing but a vain idol and the invention of men, the figment of human imagination. Is this not also the same accusation of those who lived in the days of Jeremiah, in Jer.1:16, *“And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands.”* Modern religionists of this 21st century has fallen in the same footsteps of those in Jeremiah 2:13, *“For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”* The cisterns used in our day which many churches drink from are entertainment, drama, rock, pop and rap music, dancing, fleshly programs and all kinds of pragmatism. They’re so blind that they don’t even realize the evil of their forsaking of God. So sad because those of Jeremiah’s day were emulating the pagans of their day where they carved their gods out of wood and stone and overlay them with silver and gold. See in Jeremiah 2:27-29, *“Saying to a stock, Thou art my father; and to a stone, Thou hast brought me forth: for they have turned their back unto me, and not their face: but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise, and save us. 28 But where are thy gods that thou hast made thee? let them arise, if they can save thee in the time of thy trouble: for according to the number of thy cities are thy gods, O Judah. 29 Wherefore will ye plead with me? ye all have transgressed against me, saith the LORD.”* Today, these are much darker days, religionists inside the church have carved out their own gods out of their own carnal imaginations and these same religionists hate and despise the teaching of the SOVEREIGNTY of GOD! If you don’t believe this, just bring up the subject at lunch tomorrow with you co-workers, with friends and with family members and see what happens.

One writer says, *“In reality, the religionists of our day are atheists, for there is no possible alternative between a God who is absolutely sovereign and no God at all. A god whose will can be resisted, whose purpose can be frustrated, whose power can be thwarted, whose grace can be nullified, whose work can be overturned, has no title to Deity. Such a god is not a fit object of worship. Such a puny, pigmy god merits nothing but contempt!”*

~~So sad that today’s church are so embedded in manmade traditions which caters to man’s wisdom and philosophy instead of the GOD BREATHE WORD OF GOD! Oh to God, that preachers of our day would understand that any and all teachings practices of the church must be tested by the standard of God’s Holy WORD! Listen to A W Pink’s concept of professing Christendom, and I beg to remind you this was way back in the early part of the 20th century, “How different is the God of the Bible—from the god of modern Christendom! The conception of Deity which prevails most widely today, even among those who profess to give heed to the Scriptures, is a miserable caricature, a blasphemous travesty of the Truth! The god of our modern world,~~

~~is a helpless, effeminate being who commands the respect of no really thoughtful man. The god of the popular mind, is the creation of a mushy sentimentality. The god of many a present-day pulpit, is an object of pity rather than of awe-inspiring reverence!"~~ Again man in this 21st century have forsaken the word of God in exchanged for the traditions and inventions of man which are but the works of their own hands. In Jeremiah 25:6 & 7 it says also, ~~"And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and **provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands**; and I will do you no hurt. 7 Yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the LORD; that ye might provoke me to anger with **the works of your hands to your own hurt**."~~ Ps.106:39, ~~"Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions."~~ In Acts 7:41 it also says, ~~"And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands."~~ Man puts a lot of effort in their inventions and or traditions as they exchange the works of their own hands for the Word of God. Christ also warns us on the dangers of the traditions and or inventions of man. Notice how Christ dealt with this in Mark 7:7-9, ~~"For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. 9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition"~~ This again are the words of the Apostle Paul to the Colossians where in the early part of the year we spent much time here in Col.2:8, ~~"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."~~ These inventions of man are very cunning and subtle and therefore so appealing to the flesh and so alluring that they become so very attractive to many. The reason it is so appealing and attractive is because it's fleshly and it's always base on personal benefits, that is, what's in it for me, because it's all about me, it is so self-centered and man-centered. Well I'm sorry to inform you that it is not all about you, it is all about GOD; because true Biblical Christianity is GOD-CENTERED! It's ACCORDING to CHRIST, which is the whole argument of Paul regarding these 4 things; philosophy, vain deceit, tradition and rudiments of the world and NOT AFTER CHRIST. (Repeat verse 8 here) If it is not after Christ, mark it down it is not of God. This is a must to all churches, that they must submit themselves solely to the Word of God and in doing so they will find in their Bible that God is TOTALLY SOVEREIGN! The Bible is God-centered and therefore clearly establishes the truth of the SOVEREIGNTY of GOD! Therefore we rejoice in the God our SALVATION and we gladly rejoice in the SOVEREIGNTY of our GREAT GOD and confessed GREAT IS THE LORD AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED!

There are no attributes of God more comforting and delightful to His children than this glorious TRUTH OF HIS great and marvelous sovereignty. As one writer says, *"Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe troubles, and when enduring the most heavy trials, we rejoice to know that our God has sovereignly ordained our afflictions; that he sovereignly overrules them, and that he sovereignly sanctifies them to our good and his own glory. Every believer rejoices in the sovereignty of God. There is no truth of Holy Scripture for which we must more earnestly contend than God's dominion over all creation, his sovereignty over all the works of his hands, the supremacy of his throne and his right to sit upon it."*

Again, though we rejoice and preach on God's sovereignty, so sad this blessed truth which is revealed in the Bible is so despised and hated by the world and self-righteous

religionists. Another writer says, “*Natural, unregenerate, unbelieving men and women are happy enough to have God everywhere, except upon the throne of total, universal sovereignty...They are glad to have God in the hospital to heal the sick...And they are delighted to have God in the funeral parlor to ease them of pain and sorrow. But God upon his throne is, to the unregenerate man, the most contemptible thing in the world. And any man who dares to preach that it is God’s right to do what he will with his own, to dispose of his creatures as he sees fit, and save whom he will, will be hissed at, despised, and cursed by this religious generation.*” Be that as it may, God is upon His throne and He rules with a SOVEREIGN ARM! Notice what Pink says again, “*To declare that the Creator’s original plan has been frustrated by sin, is to dethrone God. To suggest that God was taken by surprise in Eden and that He is now attempting to remedy an unforeseen calamity, is to degrade the Most High God to the level of a finite, erring mortal. To argue that man is a free moral agent and the determiner of his own destiny, and that therefore he has the power to checkmate his Maker, is to strip God of the attribute of Omnipotence. To say that the creature has burst the bounds assigned by his Creator, and that God is now practically a helpless Spectator before the sin and suffering entailed by Adam’s fall, is to repudiate the express declaration of Holy Writ, namely, “Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee:” (Psalm 76:10). In a word, to deny the sovereignty of God is to enter upon a path which, if followed to its logical terminus, is to arrive at blank atheism!*” Notice also the words of Psalm 2, turn there quickly: Starting at verse 1-7, 9, 11-12.

But God’s people rejoice to hear that the Living and True God REIGNS, “*And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, **Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.***” Rev.19:6.

Now, we must understand that a God who is not sovereign is as much an irrational and illogical as a God who is not holy, eternal, and immutable, in other words it is but a contradiction because a God who is not sovereign in truth is no God at all. As Brother Leo’s sticker on his front door used to say, “*My God is Sovereign, sorry about yours!*” Therefore if the god you worship is not totally sovereign, you are basically a pagan and your religion is false and idolatrous. As a writer says, “*You would be just as well off to worship a statue of Mary, a totem pole, a spider, or the devil himself as to worship a god who lacks the attribute of total sovereignty over all things.*”

One of God’s charge against apostate Israel is in Ps.50:21, “*Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself...*” This also again is an indictment against the religious world of our day. This is the problem with man in our day, they think that they can humanize God and bring him down to the level of man, and then they elevate man by deifying him and therefore think that they can put man and god on equal footing. Therefore they woefully imagine that God is moved by mere sentiments, rather than by the DETERMINATION OF HIS HOLY AND POWERFUL SOVEREIGN WILL! Religionists sometimes talk about God’s power but in their foolish imagination believe that this is mere relative because they think that sinful man or Satan can thwart the power of God. They act as though God is like man, that is; if they believe that God has a plan, it must be like the plans of men which are subject to constant change. Here comes the clincher, so pay attention: We are basically told that whatever power that God does possess must be limited, **lest he violate man’s free-will and make him a robot.** Well this is not the God that is described in the Bible, the BIBLE teaches about a God who is in total control, that

is; a SOVEREIGN God and this is the God I preached, I preach a SOVEREIGN GOD who ALWAYS EFFECTUALLY FULFILLS HIS SOVEREIGN WILL!

Sad, but nonetheless true, religionists also look at the grace of God to be a helpless, frustrated desire that unless man gives Him permission He is impotent to save man. Therefore man's power can easily resist god's power and so a poor defeated god returns to heaven depressed because he couldn't work out his will that day. What a poor defeated god, aren't you glad that this is not the GOD of THE BIBLE, the GOD of the BIBLE always TRIUMPHS GLORIOUSLY, go ask Pharaoh if this is true? FOR HE HATH TRIUMPHED GLORIOUSLY! Even though I'm done preaching through Exodus 15 I never get tire reading this blessed chapter, let's go there quickly: Ex.15:1-19, yes amen; FOR HE HATH TRIUMPHED GLORIOUSLY! Listen you all did this question and answer with Frankie Boystund, hope you can do it again: When I say, Let the Redeemed of the Lord SAY SO: you all answer: FOR HE HATH TRIUMPHED GLORIOUSLY! Let's try it: YES AMEN

Please understand that this doctrine of the Divine sovereignty is not some isolated doctrine, taught in a few verses of Scripture, no my dear ones, this true and fundamental, essential attribute of God is declared, yea revealed upon every page of this blessed BOOK! AW Pink in his precious and powerful book on the Sovereignty of God says, "*The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of His Supremacy. Being infinite elevated above the highest creature. He is the Most High, Lord of heaven and earth. Subjects to none, influence by none and absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases...Divine sovereignty means that God is God...*"

My own personal explanation of the Sovereignty of God:

- By Sovereignty, I mean that God is the Supreme Being of the universe.
- By Sovereignty, I mean that God is Absolute and infinite.
- By Sovereignty, I mean that God is the preeminent, predominant and principle ruler of all things.
- By Sovereignty, I mean that God is in complete control of all things.
- By Sovereignty, I mean that God is sovereign ruler of heaven and earth.
- By Sovereignty, I mean that God is sovereign in creation.
- By Sovereignty, I mean that God is sovereign over all the affairs of all men whether saved or lost.
- By Sovereignty, I mean that God is sovereign over the world's government.
- By Sovereignty, I mean that God is sovereign in all spiritual matters which includes the invisible realm of Satan and his angels.
- By Sovereignty, I mean that God is sovereign over man's salvation.
- By Sovereignty, I mean that God is sovereign in everything from creation to consummation.

God is Sovereign over everything and does not bow down to anyone or anything because we are the ones who bow down to Him. To say that God is sovereign means that He is the ALMIGHTY, the POSSESSOR of all POWER in heaven and earth!

God's Sovereignty is a precious truth that incorporates and touches all of life. It is a truth for every aspect of our lives so that it becomes a part of our very being. When we confess that God is SOVEREIGN we mean that God is in control of the whole universe, not just sometimes, but all the TIME so that we can clearly understand that He ordains whatsoever comes to pass.

When you consider the essence of the SOVEREIGNTY of GOD it is also a humbling doctrine, because it reminds us in every respect that God is God and we are not. This should cause us to bow down and acknowledge this truth, but pride kicks in because we want to be the captain of our own destiny and so sad that many say the very same words of Pharaoh in Exodus 5:2, "*And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.*" But again Pharaoh found out that God was THE SOVEREIGN POTENTATE in all matters! Reminds also of the parable in Luke 19:14 where Christ says this, "*But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.*" But regardless what man thinks or says, GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER EVERYTHING which again is a humbling doctrine and Daniel 4:34-37 clearly defines and outlines for us as to who God is and these words are from a prideful arrogant man who had to be humbled and thus regenerated to declare in clear and succinct words that God is totally and infinitely SOVEREIGN: "*And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: (His confessions) 35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? 36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. 37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase." It would had been easier for him to understand these words if he had believed Daniel, but in his rebellious and obstinate pride he acted like an animal and God said ok, you want to act like an animal I let you be just like an animal and after 7 years of this, he learn a vital lesson: GOD IS SOVEREIGN! So my dear ones this morning it is easier to bow to God's SOVEREIGNTY than to be taught that He is SOVEREIGN!*

God is the SUPREME KING of the UNIVERSE! Again Ps.115:3, "But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased." Let's hear from Pink one more time, "*The sovereignty of the God of Scripture—is absolute, irresistible and infinite! When we say that God is sovereign—we affirm His right to govern the universe, which He has made for His own glory, just as He*

pleases. We affirm that His right is the right of the Potter over the clay, that is, that He may mold that clay into whatever form He chooses, fashioning out of the same lump—one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor. We affirm that He is under no rule or law outside of His own will and nature, that God is a law unto Himself, and that He is under no obligation to give an account of His matters to any.”

This again my dear ones is the God of the Bible, notice what Ps.135:5 & 6 says, “*For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. 6 Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.*” Now as we conclude this morning I readily admit that this teaching of the sovereignty of God is very, very deep and no doubt hard to be understood. As a matter of fact we can also say that at times this teaching and truth about God’s sovereignty can become uncomfortable for us in our puny finite sense. I mean how can a finite subject comprehend the INFINITE SOVEREIGN? But we must nonetheless wrestle with this as we must BEHOLD our GREAT GOD as the WORD of GOD declares HIM to be SOVEREIGN! If you recall Jehoshaphat on one occasion made a prayer and in that prayer inquired about the sovereignty of God. Turn quickly to 2 Chron.20:6 where Jehoshaphat pray: “*And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?*” Well the answer to those questions this morning is that God is completely SOVEREIGN!

1. Art not thou God in heaven?
2. Art not thou that rulest over all kingdoms heathen?
3. Is there not in thine hand, power and might?
4. So that no one is able to withstand thee?

The answer to each question is a resounding YES; YES; YES and YES! Let the Redeem of the LORD say so:

These questions can also be ask today with the same answer! I mean as we look around the world that seems to be in such chaos and confusion that seems to be breaking down morally, environmentally and religiously in every conceivable realm, this world is falling apart and thus we ask: Is there a God in heaven? If yes, does this God rule in every kingdom of man? Does not this God have power and might? Yes and no one is able to withstand thee or say unto to thee what doest thou? YES this is the SOVEREIGN GOD of THE BIBLE who is in total control of all the affairs of the world, for that matter of the universe!

I would like to read again: 1 Chron.29:11-13, “*Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. 13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.*” Yes our God is in total control of all things:

Let's conclude in Isaiah 45:5-9; 21-23: