

Pastor's Pen

Sovereignty Of God

Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.
Psalm 115:3

Every believer in Jesus Christ would say God is sovereign. However, there is major disagreement about what that means. God's sovereignty is a natural consequence of His omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence.

Omniscience is defined as "the state of having total knowledge." He knows everything from the beginning to the end of time. John writes, *"In whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things"* (1 John 3:20). He knows the number of hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30). The psalmist declares that God knows how long will live, *Your eyes have seen my unshaped substance; And in Your book all of them were written The days that were formed for me, as yet there was not one of them*" (Psalm 139:16).

Omnipotent means to have unlimited power (omni = all; potent = powerful). God is able and powerful to do anything he wills without any effort on his part. The cynic will say, "Can God make a rock too heavy to lift". It's important to note the "anything he wills" part of that statement because God cannot do anything contradictory or contrary to His nature. Hebrews 6:18 puts it like this: *"so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us."* With His power He created everything, *The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;*(Acts 17:24).

Omnipresent. The prefix omni- originates in Latin and means "all." So, to say that God is omnipresent is to say that God is present everywhere. Again we read from the Psalmist, *here can I go from Your Spirit?*

Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I lift up the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. If I say, "Surely the darkness will bruise me, And the light around me will be night," Even the darkness is not too dark for You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You (Psalm 139:7-12).

God is sovereign in every aspect of our lives. From our birth to our death (Psalm 139:13-14). He is sovereign in our salvation. The Apostle Paul writing to the church of Rome under the inspiration, makes this point loud and clear: *Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers; and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified* (Romans 8:29-30).

It should bring you great peace, Christian, that our God is sovereign in every aspect of creation and our individual lives. Because He is sovereign in our salvation, we are sealed until the day He returns or calls us home.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"When you go through a trial, the sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which you lay your head."

-Charles Spurgeon

Grace Gems

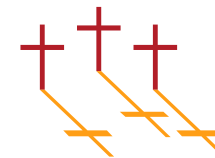
When I am weak — then I am strong
-J.R. Miller

"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will glory all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak — then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

There is a blessing in weakness — because it nourishes dependence on God. When we are strong, or deem ourselves strong — we are really weak, since then we trust in ourselves, and do not seek Divine help. But when we are consciously weak, knowing ourselves unequal to our duties and struggles — we are strong, because then we turn to Christ, and get His strength.

Too many people think that their weakness a barrier to their usefulness; or make it an excuse for doing little with their life. Instead of this, however, if we give it to Christ — He will transform our weakness into strength. He says that His power is made perfect in weakness; that is, what is lacking in human strength — He fills and makes up with divine strength. Paul had learned this, when he said that he now gloried in his weaknesses, because on account of them — the strength of Christ rested upon him, so that, when he was weak — then he was strong — strong with Divine strength.

We need only to make sure of one thing — that we do indeed bring our weakness to Christ, and lean on Him in simple faith. This is the vital link in getting the blessing. Weakness itself is a burden; it is like chains upon our limbs. If we try to carry it alone — we shall only fail. But if we lay it on the strong Son of God — and let Him carry us and our burden, going on quietly and firmly in the way of duty — He will make our very weakness — a secret source of strength. He will not take the weakness from us — that is not His promise — but He will so fill it with His own power — that we shall be strong, more than conquerors, able to do all things through Christ, who strengthens us!



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and need to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address on the back of this bulletin.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study & Surge!

Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM
Sunday School 9:30AM
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 10/01/2023

General Offering	7,719.75
Building Fund	3,078.00
Uganda Missions	151.00
Benevolence	1.00

Total.....\$10,949.75
Attendance 218
Online.....22

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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Welcome