The Revelation of the One True God

The Revelation of the Sovereign God

Lesson 5
Selected Scripture Texts

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
July 5, 2015
We start the study of theology with two presuppositions, namely (1) that God exists, and (2) that He has revealed Himself in His divine Word.

BERKHOF, L. (1938). SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (p. 19)
Theology Proper

- Two essential foundational truths
  - God is Spirit and unknowable (1 Timothy 6:13-16)
  - Man is spiritually dead (Genesis 2:16-17; 1 Corinthians 2:14)

- God has spoken
  - God revealed His eternal power and divine nature in creation (Romans 1:18-20)
  - God has revealed Himself through holy men in the Bible (Hebrews 1:1; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
  - Man cannot understand apart from illumination (2 Cor. 4:3,4,6)
God is the Creator

- Solely by Divine counsel and Divine wisdom
  - How did God create?
  - What did God create?
  - When did God create?
  - What about evolution?
  - Why did God create?
The Revelation of the Sovereign God

- What is sovereignty?
- The Bible teaches the sovereignty of God
- Objections to the sovereignty of God
What is Sovereignty?

- No word for sovereign or sovereignty in the Bible
- Sovereignty – *malkût* (Hebrew)
- Sovereign – *dunastes* (Greek)
What is Sovereignty?

- “Sovereign” not used in English until the 13\textsuperscript{th} or 14\textsuperscript{th} century
- Dictionary
  - Sovereign (n) – supreme ruler
  - Sovereignty (n) – supreme power or authority
  - Sovereign (adj) – possessing supreme or ultimate power
- Not subject to the rule or control of another
  - Free – complete absence of external rule and the full ability to make all of one's own decisions
  - Independent – standing alone
  - Sovereign – absence of a superior power and implies supremacy within a thing's own domain or sphere
  - Autonomous – independence in matters pertaining to self-government
What is the Sovereignty of God?

- It is presented as the will, purpose, plan or decree of God
  - Deuteronomy 29:29 – Secret or revealed

- It is developed from all of His fullness – His attributes
  - His holiness, truth, wisdom, goodness, wrath
  - His eternity
  - His omniscience and perfection
  - God’s immutability (Malachi 3:6)

- It is executed by His omnipotence

- It is displayed in three areas:
  - Creation
  - Providence
  - Salvation
1 Samuel 15:29 – Will not lie or change His mind
Job 23:13-14 – He does what His soul desires
Psalm 22:28 – He rules over the nations
Psalm 33:11 – the counsel of the LORD stands forever
Psalm 102:27 – You are same and Your years will not end
Psalm 115:3 – He does whatever He pleases
Psalm 119:160 – His righteous ordinances are forever
Psalm 147:15-18 – He sends forth commands to the earth
Isaiah 14:26-27 – the LORD of Hosts has planned
The Biblical Case for Sovereignty

- Isaiah 31:2 – does not retract His words
- Isaiah 44:28-45:7 – raise up Cyrus to perform all My desire
- Isaiah 46:9-11 – My purpose will be established
- Isaiah 48:14 – He will carry out His good pleasure on Babylon
- Romans 11:29 – irrevocable gifts and calling of God
- 1 Timothy 6:15 – Only Sovereign, King of kings and Lord of lords
- Hebrews 6:13-18 – unchangeable oath; He cannot lie
- Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, forever
- James 1:17-18 – no variation or shifting shadow
The Biblical Case for Sovereignty

- Genesis 45:1-11 – Joseph’s story
- Exodus 3:1-12; 6:28-7:6 – the Exodus
- Joshua 10:1-15; Joshua 11:18-20 – the conquest of Canaan
- Daniel 4:1-37 – Nebuchadnezzar’s humiliation and testimony
- Psalm 104:1-35 – His providential rule over creation
- 1 Chronicles 29:10-16 – His providential rule over men
- Romans 8:28 – His providential rule for blessing His people
The Biblical Case for Sovereignty

- The control of random events – Proverbs 16:33
- The control of our eternal destiny
  - Colossians 1:19-20
  - John 10:28-30
  - Romans 8:38-39
  - 2 Timothy 4:18
  - Titus 1:2
  - 2 Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 1:4, 5, 9, 11 – Eternal plan
  - Hebrews 13:20 – Everlasting Covenant
Objections to the Sovereignty of God

▷ None from Scripture

▷ The problem of sin: He is not sovereign or He is not good
  • Job – “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?”
  • Habakkuk – “The just shall live by faith.”
  • Death of Jesus Christ – Acts 2:23; 4:27-28

▷ The “free will” of man
  • A false doctrine – 1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 8:6-8
  • The will of man is determined by his attributes
  • A “free will” requires Divine intervention – change in attributes
    – John 3:3, 5 – must be born again to see or enter the Kingdom of God
    – Philippians 2:12-13 – works in us to will and to do His good pleasure
    – Hebrews 12:1-2 – Author of our faith
The Revelation of the Sovereign God

▶ The sovereignty of God
  • God’s ability to act independent of outside influence
  • God’s display of all His attributes in sovereignty over creation and salvation
  • God’s exercise of omnipotence in fulfilling His plan, purpose, will and decree

▶ The duty of man
  • No basis for a challenge to God (Romans 9:20, 33)
  • Be thankful as He reveals Himself in His Word and Providence
  • Trust in Him as He reveals Himself in His Word and Providence

▶ The glory of Christ – Romans 9:23; 11:33-36