

“The Hardening of a Heart: The Providence and Sovereignty of God”

Romans 11:33-36

**“God is greater and stranger and more glorious and more dreadful and more loving than we realize. Immersing ourselves in the ocean of God’s sovereignty and providence is meant to help us know Him, fear Him, trust Him, and love Him as we ought.”**

*(John Piper)*

**“God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern (He cares for, sustains, and superintends) all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest to the least...to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.”**

*(The Westminster Confession of Faith)*

Sovereignty: God’s right and power to do all that He wills.

Providence: God seeing to it that things happen in a certain way for a specific purpose.

- God made the earth, owns the earth, and does as He pleases with it (Isaiah 45:12; Psalm 24:1; Psalm 115:1-3).
  - God reigns over all earthquakes and volcanic eruptions (Psalm 60:2; Psalm 104:32). God reigns over all tidal waves and hurricanes and storms and rain (Matthew 8:27; Psalm 89:8-9; Deuteronomy 28:12). God reigns over freezing rain and snow and even water freezing over (Job 37:10-14; Psalm 105:32; Psalm 147:16-17). God reigns over famine and drought (Isaiah 5:6; Amos 4:7 & 10). Nothing is random or caused by “mother nature” (Romans 11:36).
  - God reigns over the seas dividing (Nehemiah 9:11) and walking on water (Matthew 14:25).
  - God reigns over all plant life (Psalm 104:14; Ezekiel 36:29) and God reigns over all animals (Matthew 6:26; Jonah 1:17; John 21:5-6; Psalm 147:8-9; Psalm 104:27-29).
- God is sovereign over Satan and Demons.
  - God commands demons and Satan and they can do nothing without permission from God (Matthew 8:28-32; Mark 1:27; Luke 22:31-32; Job 1:8-12; Job 2:4-7).
  - God uses Satan, sickness, and hardships of all kinds for the good suffering of His people that will make them see, savor, and be conformed into Christ-likeness (1 Peter 3:17; 1 Peter 4:19; 1 Peter 2:19-21; Revelation 2:10; 1 Peter 5:6-10; Deuteronomy 32:39).
  - Job would not give Satan sovereignty over anything (Job 1:21 & Job 2:10).
    - The Sabeans, fire from heaven, the Chaldeans, a great wind, and Job’s sickness are all under the idea of “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.” God is sovereign over all of these events coming to pass.

**“Satan is real and terrible. All his designs are hateful. But he is not sovereign. Whatever Satan does God governs it according to His all-wise providence.”**

- God is sovereign over life and death (James 4:15; Hebrews 9:27; Job 14:5; Deuteronomy 32:39).
  - God at times takes life for the judgment of sin: Eli’s sons (1 Samuel 2:25), Nabal (1 Samuel 25:38), Uzzah (2 Samuel 6:7), Annanias & Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11), Herod (Acts 12:23), and taking the Lord’s supper in an unworthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:30).
  - The Lord also is sovereign over martyr’s losing their lives for the gospel (John 21:18-19; Revelation 6:9-11). Every breath is under the sovereignty of God (Acts 17:25; Daniel 5:23; Isaiah 42:5; Job 12:10).
    - Is fate in control of life and death, is Satan, is man, or is God?

(continued →)

**Worship:** Psalm 18 (Citizens)

Jesus Thank You (Sovereign Grace Music)

Before the Throne of God Above (Sovereign Grace Music)

**Closing Song:** Christ is Mine Forevermore (CityAlight)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- Death is always mercy for those inside of Christ (Philippians 1:21-23) and wrath for those that are outside of Christ (Romans 2:5-8).
- God is sovereign over sin and sinners: (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28)
  - A keeper of a prison (Genesis 39:21-23), Pharaoh & Joseph (Acts 7:9-10), The Egyptians to the Israelites (Exodus 3:21-22 & 12:35-36), Enemies to be at peace with people (Proverbs 16:7), and turning the wicked hearts of kings to have favor on Israel (Ezra 6:22; Proverbs 21:1).
  - Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 37): Favoritism (Genesis 37:3-4); Jealousy (Genesis 37:8); Hatred (Genesis 37:18-20); Greed (Genesis 37:26-27).

God's sovereignty & providence

*God  
Meant  
It  
For Good  
People kept alive  
God glorified*

Man's will and responsibility

*You  
Meant  
Evil  
Against me  
People kept alive  
God glorified*

**Announcements:**

\***Volunteers:** We have a couple of wonderful opportunities for our church members to get involved in serving our church body:

1. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions about serving in this ministry, please talk to Kalen and Courtney!
2. SET-UP/TEAR-DOWN MINISTRY: We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping with the set-up and tear-down of the facility for the worship services. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions, please talk to Hunter!

\***4th of July Service:** Our annual 4th of July Service will be in **2 WEEKS** on Sunday, July 4th, at the Davis Residence. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something for our annual outdoor service and fellowship dinner.

\***Fellowship Dinner:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner TONIGHT immediately following the worship service! We invite EVERYONE to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!