

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Commemorating the Uganda martyrs... There has never been a moment in the history of the church of Uganda where the sovereignty of God most revealed itself than in the darkest hour of its inception.

Today, we will study about His sovereignty. I pray that we will see Him in the truest of light...

what does it mean for God to be sovereign?

Is he sovereign?

What does it look like to be sovereign?

our understanding his sovereignty (or lack of) has a significant bearing on our faith, our prayer, our character and our lifestyle.

Some have gone to extremities of believing there is no God of such power... And if there is, he is not to be trusted considering all the pain and suffering.

Or believing in superstition and the supremacy of all other undeserving creatures....

Some live like there is no tomorrow whilst others live like it is there's for the taking...

God's Sovereignty is a simple but complex view point.

We are conflicted with our reality on the one hand.... Death, plagues, suffering...

and the Truth of his Sovereignty on the other

We ask, How can a good God allow so much evil to take place! ?

So surely the devil is at work....we may conclude.

May be God needs our help in Salvation, and in our sanctification.

Perhaps we need to pray more... Do more... Be more...

Perhaps the cross wasn't redemptive enough... We may need to attend church more... Give to the poor more.... Attend overnights more... Shout more...

Maybe the darkness will flee if I do more... Have more... Be more....

Such is the depravity of human kind. It blinds us from truly seeing what His sovereignty truly is!

Definitively :

For someone to have sovereignty, over anything... They must have supreme power or authority over it.

They have supremacy, dominion, power and ascendancy over whatever is under their rule and control

Further more... Sovereignty is measured by the extent of self governance, self rule, and self sufficiency.

In other words, if one has power, dominion and supremacy over another they are sovereign over them. If however that person has another power that cause him to be any less sufficient or self governing... They themselves are subject to a higher more sovereign power.

A sovereign being or state has supreme rule and power.

Now that we have a little glimpse into what the word means, we must reckon with the idea that this is Who God is! Countless records tell of his power, dominance and rule as a supreme and incomparable deity.

The Bible

The Psalmist says,

For the **Lord Most High** is awesome, the great King over all the earth. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. **God reigns over the nations;** God is seated on his holy throne. The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, **for the kings of the earth belong to God;** he is greatly exalted.

Psalm 47:2, 6-6, 8-9

The prophets Ezekiel , Amos, Daniel even Gideon referred to the God we now worship With Phrases like " declares the Sovereign Lord"

The hymns

The great pastor, poet and writer Walter C. Smith based on 1 Timothy 1: 17,

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,

Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but nought changeth Thee.

4

Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render, O help us to see:
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

What then

If this is God. If what is said of him is fact, if his confirmation is the Truth, then we must, of necessity, contend with the picture of our reality. We must become blind to our seemingly random, unorganized, chaotic reality and let our eyes, like Soul of Tarsus, be opened once again to the purest display of Light... The truest of sense reality..

This Saul, because of this truth, was transformed into Paul the Apostle, called by the one he now calls supreme...

He believed that God revealed himself through his son and he said of Him,

"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things,

whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:15-20 NIV

This for me give me a whole new perspective on life.. .knowing that God is more superior than I had imagined changed the way I prayed, the way I looked at life...

Could it be that all of life's randomness, it's unpredictable chaos, the seemingly unavoidable evil, the generational curses, the centuries of bloodshed,all play an important part in the story of the most sovereign of all?

Could it be that for us who claim to believe and trust in this sovereign God, there ought not to be fear, anxiety or worry about the darkness in the world.?

This God, in His revealed word, teaches us not to fear! Not to be afraid of what randomness the world seemingly throws at us..

The Martyrs got it. Young men that found themselves at the crossroads between life and death decisions. Men who were taught and disciplined into knowing a sovereign God they would live for or die for.

Young men who understood Paul and desired to be like him when he said ""I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead."

Philippians 3:10-11

Young men that understood the times... The wickedness of the world was not to be contended with sticks and stones... Buy with their character... With their lives....

They were not afraid of death because it was a lay over... It wasn't final. The sovereign God was the source of eternal life...

"The church that is afraid of death is dead" ~ Bishop Festo

So Martyrs lived for Him and died for him... And today, we celebrate not only their lives, but the seed their blood planted... We celebrate the life of the church today, because of the sacrifice of over 20 men that gave their lives up not to see the church grow... But in light of this sovereign God. It's all they needed.

Paul's prayers for the Saints and for himself amuse me... He never asks God to take away the pain or suffering, even when he did, God gently reminds him of what was more important.

The sufficiency of his grace!

Paul writes to the Colossians for example, and says ,

"And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, **for which I am in chains**. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Colossians 4:3-4

Notice he doesn't tell them to pray against the chains... To break Te Chains or to subdue the chains.... That was not what he was concentrated on

Conclusion

My prayer life changed from the moment I started concentrating on knowing this sovereign God.

Perhaps more than on which demons to cast out, which alter to demolish, which hour or gate to pray through..... Could it be that we could desire to intimately know this God?

Could it be that this God so great has allowed suffering in your life, pain in your life... Just so he could have His way... His loving, pure way?

Could it be that what you thought all along was a curse because of what the countless preachers and pastors have told you, is a blessing in disguise?

Could it be that even if it is a messenger from Satan tormenting you, God in his sovereignty has allowed it that you may grow to be what he wants you to be..?

We may be like that little child fighting and struggling with the needle wondering why their loving parent would allow such pain and torment to come to them...

Does he not love me? Is there something in my life that I haven't dealt with?

Is there something I did that deserves punishment?

Tim Keller, a pastor, author and teacher of the word said,

"God allows evil just enough space so it will defeat itself. The story of Job is a smaller version of what God is doing in your life and the history of the world. God has now mapped out a plan for history that includes evil as part of it.

This confuses and angers us, but then a book like Job pulls back the veil for just an instant and shows us that God will allow evil only to the degree that it brings about the very opposite of what it intends.

Walking with God through pain and suffering."

Let's bow our heads.. And think

Father, the most beautiful work of sanctification is painted with strokes of suffering and pain. Help us endure, help us stand, draw us in.

Our greatest purpose in light of you our sovereign God is to live in the image you created us. To be like you.

For you chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love you predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with Your pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 1:4-6 NIV

We give ourselves to you. We give ourselves away.