

Sovereignty and Salvation

The cross of Jesus Christ was a majestic display of God's sovereignty over sin, death, hell, the devil, and all souls.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 ³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹ so that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."

John 15:16 ¹⁶ You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

Some Christians are upset by this idea, but being God's chosen people is our inheritance, and we are God's!

Ephesians 1:3-6 ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

God initiates every part of our redemption and makes us ready and able to respond to His grace in His perfect time!

Romans 10:9-10 ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

1 Corinthians 12:3 ³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus must do the saving work entirely because our natural will has been corrupted by sin- we cannot save ourselves!

This doctrine is called Total Depravity. We are hopelessly lost if Jesus does not choose and call us, giving grace and faith.

We do not like the idea that God's will is central in our salvation, and not ours- but that is exactly what we must accept!

The doctrine of God's sovereignty over our salvation directly confronts man's desire to be the master of his own destiny.

On the other side of our struggle with this truth is great rejoicing!

Romans 5:1-2

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

If God has chosen me for redemption, He must have a magnificent plan for my life. I will seek Him to find out what it is!

Philippians 2:12-13 ¹² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.