

A Case Against Calvinism – Lesson 10

The Sovereignty of God

Isaiah 46:9-10

Introduction: “God is in control; He’s still on the throne,” is something that we often hear. But what does that mean? Was God not in control when Satan rebelled and when Adam and Eve disobeyed, but now He is? Does God’s being in control mean that all rape, murder, war, famine, suffering, and evil is exactly what He planned and desires as Edwin Palmer says, “...even the moving of a finger...the mistake of a tyrist...”?

The fact that God is absolutely sovereign does not require that everything man chooses to do or not to do is not his own choice at all but was foreordained by God from eternity past. There is neither logical nor biblical reason why a sovereign God by His own sovereign design could not allow creatures made in His image the freedom of moral choice. Indeed, He must, if man is to be more than a cardboard puppet.

Palmer insists that the non-Calvinist denies the sovereignty of God while insisting upon man’s power of choice, while the “hyper-Calvinist denies the responsibility of man.” He then suggests that the true “Calvinist...accepts both sides of the antinomy. He realizes that what he advocates is ridiculous...impossible for man to harmonize these two sets of data. To say on the one hand that God has made certain all that ever happens, and yet to say that man is responsible for what he does? Nonsense! It must be one or the other. To say that God foreordains the sin of Judas, and yet Judas is to blame? Foolishness...! This is in accord with Paul, who said, “The word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness” (1 Corinthians 1:18). The Greeks seek after wisdom and logic, and to them the Calvinist is irrational. So the Calvinist has to make up his mind: what is his authority? His own human reason or the Word of God? If he answers, the human reasoning powers, then, like the Arminian and hyper-Calvinist, he will have to exclude one of the two parallel forces. But he believes the Bible is God’s Word...infallible and inerrant...[T]he apparent paradox of the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man belongs to the Lord our God, and we should leave it there. We ought not to probe into the secret counsel of God.”

There is no contradiction between God’s sovereignty and man’s free will.

I. A Biblical understanding of God’s Sovereignty.

- A. God is _____ all things.
- B. God _____ all things.
- C. God _____ all things.
- D. God is _____ all things.
- E. God _____ all things.

F. God _____ all things.

G. God will _____ all things.

II. Opposing views.

A. God's Sovereignty.

1. Calvinism:

2. Bible:

B. God's Foreknowledge.

1. Calvinism:

2. Bible:

C. God's Predestination.

1. Calvinism:

2. Bible:

D. Man's Fallen Nature.

1. Calvinism:

2. Bible:

E. God's Grace.

1. Bible:

F. Man's Free-will.

1. Calvinism:

2. Bible: