

# **“Revangelized” – Getting back to the roots of our faith!**

## **Summer Series 2025 – Sovereignty**

Sermon Notes - BK

July 13, 2025

**We are in Our new series for the Summer...**

**“Revangelized” – Getting back to the roots of our faith!**

### **LAST WEEK -**

**Took the time to talk about why it is important to take a step back and look at what we believe and why...**

**TO BE CLEAR...** – This series is ***not a primer for what is wrong with the church today***, it will be to **focus on what the Bible teaches** and to clarify what we are to hold to re:

- Who God is
- What He says
- How we live out our faith
- How we walk this out together in community
- Etc.

### **My hope with this series –**

- 1) To **reestablish/remind/reiterate some foundational truths** we believe about the Lord our God, Jesus and Holy Spirit... and how our faith affects every aspect of our daily lives.
- 2) To **expose some of the false teachings** in the church that needs to be exposed.

- 3) To **seek the Lord** for any areas in our own church that need to be **corrected or directed by the Lord**.
- 4) To **make clear what we believe the Bible teaches and to be committed to following His lead**.
- 5) To **keep the main thing, the main thing!**

**It is always good to take a step back and re-evaluate.**

**It is easy to just “*believe what they do,*” rather than test things for ourselves.**

**As we covered – it did not take long for the church to get off track, as we noted in the message of Jesus to the 7 churches of Asia in Revelation 2 & 3...**

**We need to make sure our roots are healthy.**

**This is just the wise thing to do...**

**I have been reading in the Proverbs lately, and have been **reminded** again, just how amazing and relevant the Proverbs are!**

**There is a great invitation we see in Proverbs 8.**

**In fact, some time ago, I wrote by the top of this Proverb,  
“**Wisdom Loves Company!**”**

***Proverbs 8:1-11***

***Does not wisdom call?***

***Does not understanding raise her voice?***

***<sup>2</sup> On the heights beside the way,***

***at the crossroads she takes her stand;***

***<sup>3</sup> beside the gates in front of the town,***

***at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud:***

***<sup>4</sup> “To you, O men, I call,***

***and my cry is to the children of man.***

***<sup>5</sup> O simple ones, learn prudence;***

***O fools, learn sense.***

***<sup>6</sup> Hear, for I will speak noble things,***

***and from my lips will come what is right,***

***<sup>7</sup> for my mouth will utter truth;***

***wickedness is an abomination to my lips.***

***<sup>8</sup> All the words of my mouth are righteous;***

***there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.***

***<sup>9</sup> They are all straight to him who understands,***

***and right to those who find knowledge.***

***<sup>10</sup> Take my instruction instead of silver,***

***and knowledge rather than choice gold,***

***<sup>11</sup> for wisdom is better than jewels,***

***and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.***

**We want to walk in God’s wisdom!**

- For such a time as this!
- In the midst of the shift happening in our culture
- For our every step... every day!

**Having healthy roots to our faith is critical... ADDING to our learning... and being reminded as well.**

Remember... *“If you’re green you grow, if you’re ripe, you rot.”*

So let’s grow deeper today!

***TODAY – We are talking about the Sovereignty of God...***

*...As we talk about getting back to the roots of our faith – this is foundational.*

**THIS is also a topic that is very loaded theologically!**

In a purely “secular” context, *Sovereignty is the right to rule and make the rules.*

Though we don’t use the word “sovereignty” much in our language for everyday life, it is there...

**The “Sovereignty Stream...”**

- **Personal rule** (biblically, this is simply called ***self-control***)
- **Family order** (having a sense of order in the home – ideally, there is a husband to head the home, with his wife right next to him in unity, parenting children that recognize authority (sovereignty))
- **Governmental order** –
  - City order and ordinances
  - County
  - State

- Federal (Legislative (make laws) – Executive (carrying out the laws) – Judicial (evaluating laws))
- US Constitution
- International
- **The sovereignty of God.**

**How does sovereignty work?**

**How does it not?**

**How does the understanding of sovereignty apply to God?**

**What does it matter for our lives today?**

**Most of us would say, “Yes, I believe God is sovereign.”**

**“God has the right to rule and make the rules.”**

**Does the Sovereignty of God mean He controls everything at all times?**

***Let's talk about a few statements for a minute...***

***...HANG WITH ME, as we walk through this process...***

**A) God IS in complete control of everything.**

**This is *where some theological camps* are – specifically Calvinism...**

Calvin believed that God is in complete and absolute control of all events, both in the natural world and in the lives of individuals... Sounds powerful.

Some in this camp have likened it to us just being chess pieces on the board that God moves as He wills, when He wills.

This is where it breaks down... what kind of arguments would people have for this?

- Problems of justice and injustice in the world.
- Problems with the idea of self-autonomy (Free will)
- WHAT ARE OTHER challenges people may raise with this? (open for discussion?)
  - Why pray?
  - Why do anything if God is doing it all?!
  - IS there any relationship with God at all?
    - Was walking with Adam in the garden relationship?
    - Are we really Jesus' friends if He is doing it all?

While there are some answers given these questions, I struggle to see this work (like this) in the Bible.

We see too many places in the Bible where the people of God disobey and grieve His heart... In other words they

***did NOT do what God asked... is that what He planned all along?***

***IF God moves us like chess pieces, that is what this teaching of “sovereignty” looks like.***

- ***I do not believe this works with what we know about God, His creation of covenant and relationship.***

***While Paul taught predestination – I do not believe in that, Paul was teaching God predetermined some for heaven and some for hell.***

***Why? Paul also taught...***

***1 Timothy 2:1-4***

***First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

***SO, this is one way to look at the sovereignty of God...***

***But then... there is the next logical statement...***

***B) God IS sovereign... but only over some things.***

***God is sovereign, over some...***

**If this is the case, would He be sovereign at all?**

**I am not going to waste my time on this, because there is no credible Biblical support for this that I have heard...**

**PAUSE...**

***So... Are these the only two options?***

**Is there another? What could it be??**

**C) God IS (completely) sovereign, but chooses to exercise His sovereign control as HE chooses.**

**There are places in the Bible, where God intentionally limits His control...**

**WHERE WOULD WE SEE THIS IN THE BIBLE?**

- **Seen in God's declaration, "I will never flood the earth..." Gen 9:15**
- **Seen in listening to the pleading of Abraham for the sparing of Sodom and Gomorrah – Gen. 18:22-33**
- **Seen what seems to be God changing His mind about destroying Israel in Exodus 32:9-14**
- **Many places God "stays His hand" in the OT**
- **JESUS HIMSELF is an example of God "limiting His sovereignty." In the sense of taking on flesh...**



NONE of this means that God is not sovereign, it simply means IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY, He chooses when and how He acts (or does not act)...

Let's not get ahead of ourselves... (Go back a bit)

**Sovereignty:**

- Is a loaded word
- Has all kinds of implications
- Has differing interpretations and applications

Again... ***Sovereignty is the right to rule and make the rules.***

We know in this sense... God is THE sovereign

***Psalm 22:28***

***For kingship belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.***

***Proverbs 19:21***

***Many are the plans in the mind of a man,  
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.***

Paul, speaking of Jesus...

***Colossians 1:17***

***And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.***

**We understand this to be true**

**It is in the fact that God is in control that we find strength and hope.**

**The challenge is...**

**The term Sovereignty has been used as a “blanket word” for the church all-too-often...**

- **“God is sovereign, so... (name the thing we need to ‘get over.’)”**
- **“The Lord moves in mysterious ways...”**
- **“God is in control...”**

**Often, when things like this are spoken it feels like anything but!**

- **The Floods**
- **Unexpected tragedies**
- **The present fear of something bad happening**

**The danger in all of this, is that *when God does not act like we think He should...***

- ***We can lose faith in Him or***
- ***We can lose sight of the fact that He is still good.***
- **Jesus tells us ONLY GOD is good – Mark 10:18, Luke 18:19**
- **Paul tells Timothy that everything God created is good – 1 Timothy 4:4**

**We can lose sight of this at times, if we have a misunderstanding of the Sovereignty of God.**

**So... HOW is God Sovereign?**

**I am convinced:**

**God is completely sovereign.**

**He rules over all and makes the rules for all!**

**That said, in this mix, there is something called free will...**

**We see this in just the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Genesis!**

***Genesis 2:16-17***

***<sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”***

**We see this in Joshua...**

***Joshua 24:15***

***“...choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”***

**We also see...**

***Galatians 5:13***

***For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.***

**AND**

***1 Corinthians 10:13***

***No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.***

**Like anything however, we can take our free-will too far...**

**If people who are *not convinced God is really in control*, THEY WILL TAKE control themselves...**

**Believe it or not... we see this even in the church.**

**It is seen in teaching like:**

- **“Remind the Lord what He has promised and He is obligated to do as I say!”**
- **“*I will take control, because God has given me the authority to...*”**
- **I will take control by *living in a place of dynamic and amazing faith! From that place, God is (again) obligated...***

They would not say this is what they are doing, but their actions show this to be true.

TRUTH IS... there IS *some* truth to all of this...

...PROBLEM IS, we can end up in a place where we walk OUTSIDE of relationship with God...

...Here, we can live in “our own sovereignty” rather than in submission to His...

Does this sound strange to you?

Do we see Jesus address this? Yes we do...

***Matthew 7:21-23***

***<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’***

While we cannot make a “doctrine” out of this passage, we do see a powerful truth...

- Prophecy
- Casting out demons

- Doing mighty works

**CAN be done *outside of God's will...***

### ***Matthew 7:21***

***<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.***

Knowing the Lord and living out of that relationship is where it all comes together.

### **Our responsibility**

- To believe
- To trust
- To obey His commands
- To walk out His word to ask-seek-knock-pray-believe!
- To be in relationship with Him

### **His sovereignty**

- Over all things
- For His glory

This is the context we covered this in John 14, when Jesus told His disciples...

### ***John 14:12-14***

***<sup>12</sup> “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be***

***glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.***

**While we see places like this that teach us we have authority designated by God, in His name... That slope can get very slippery**

**I have been praying for people to be healed for a long time.**

**It is easy to pray, “*if it is Your will*” – But another thing to continue to seek Him for His peace and clarity *in the midst of it!***

*THAT SAID – if we believe God never wants disease and should heal every time... then who ends up taking responsibility for the healing (if it happens)? The one who prays does!*

- They give God credit*
- They take the praise (or the undue honor)*

**THIS is where we keep things in perspective of who God is and who we are in the light of that.**

***Isaiah 55:6-9***

***“Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion  
on him,***

*and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

*<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.*

*<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

### **In our daily life...**

- We walk in **personal responsibility**
- We **live humbly according to His Word** in our family and neighborhood.
- We **live in a place of respect for the government** as authority/sovereign over us. (*Unless it requires us to go against Biblical truth*)

### **In our relationship with God –**

**God IS (completely) sovereign, but chooses to exercise His sovereign control as HE chooses.**

### **We resign - God is totally sovereign**

- He has given us a level of our own “sovereignty” – *Self control*
  - We partner with Him (the One sovereign over us) to walk as believing believers
  - We walk in the peace He gives, even when things are not as we would like them to be.

### **I am not trying to make everything “neat and clean.”**

- There is *always a place for mystery*



- ***We have to live with the unknown in the midst of what we know***

**THIS is where we SEEK Him... with the promise we will find – Matthew 7:7**

**THIS is where we ASK Him... John 14:13-14**

**THIS is where we CALL TO Him... knowing He will “Tell us great and mighty things that we do not know.” Jeremiah 33:3**

**THIS is where we LISTEN to the Lord –**

***Isaiah 30:21,***

***“And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.”***

***John 10:27-30***

***My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one.”***

**Maybe THIS is how we walk with an amazing God who is totally sovereign.**