

## **Good morning.**

- We're continuing our study on Evangelism.
- This morning, I'll be preaching topically. So I don't have a text for you to turn to because we'll be looking at many.
- Today we'll be considering Our Confidence in Evangelism: God's Sovereignty.

## **Brothers and sisters, evangelism is hard work.**

- It takes a lot of guts to tell the lost that they're sinners, under God's wrath, headed to Hell, and that only Christ can save them.
- It takes boldness to declare that Christ crucified and raised from the dead is the only remedy for man's problem of sin against a holy God.
- And it takes courage to call sinners to repent and believe on Christ or be damned.
- Why? Because most people don't respond positively to our message.
- In general, the response is open hostility, cold indifference, or mockery of the messenger and message.
- Evangelism can be scary work. And it's often heart-breaking work.

## **Friends, we're going to be rejected a lot.**

- Not everyone is going to receive our message by

faith and be saved.

- In my experience, very few have become Christians.
- And because of that it's easy to become jaded, give in to despair, and grow weary in the work.
- In our day, evangelism is some of the most unrewarding work you'll do as a Christian, because so few are currently believing our message.

**And when you see the Gospel rejected, and person after person remain unconverted, various temptations will arise in your heart:**

- Change the message to make it more palatable. (Maybe sinners aren't being saved because the message is too harsh.)
- Soft-pedal some of the hard truths.
- Feel horrible guilt, as if it's your fault people won't believe. (If you did a better job, they'd repent.)
- Assume you're too unskilled or stupid to evangelize.
- Give in to despair. Give up on evangelism. (What's the point in continuing to do this and get rejected?)
- These temptations are real. And anyone who has done much work in evangelism knows them well.

**So how will we keep from giving in to such temptations?**

- What will push us to continue the work?
- What will keep us bold for the Gospel?

- What is our confidence to do the work?

**Theology is both critical and practical to answer these questions. (And in general.)**

•And it's our theology of the sovereignty of God in salvation that is the answer to these questions.

**My aim in this sermon is to encourage you with the truth that God saves His People.**

•And that He's chosen to save them by our proclamation of the Gospel.

•If we get these truths deep into our hearts, they'll be a guard against many of the temptations that keep Christians from faithfully preaching Christ to the lost.

•So may God open our eyes today and put these truths deep within us, for His glory.

**With that said, I'll pray. And then we'll get started.**

**(PRAY)**

***Our Heavenly Father,***

***•Your Word is good.***

***•In it, you reveal yourself and your ways to your People.***

***•So we ask now that you'd work in us and show us that you save sinners.***

*•Show us the old truth that salvation is of the LORD.*

*•And give us boldness to proclaim Christ to the world.*

*•Open our hearts to receive the Word preached today.*

*And change us.*

*•Sanctify us in the truth. Your Word is truth.*

*•We ask these things in Jesus' Name and for His sake.*

*•Amen.*

**1.) Today, I'm going to put two truths together and then work out some of the applications they make to evangelism.**

•Those two truths are:

**1.** When a sinner is brought to salvation through faith in Christ, it is entirely an ACT OF GOD.

**2.** God, in bringing sinners to salvation, uses the preaching of the Gospel to draw His Elect to Christ.

•So let's turn now to see the biblical support for these things.

**2.) Our first truth: GOD IS SOVEREIGN IN SALVATION.**

**1.** The Scriptures teach that, by virtue of Adam's fall into sin, the entire human race, apart from God's grace,

is dead in sin, hates God, are unable to choose spiritual good, and are blind to saving truth.

- The natural state of man is to love sin, follow Satan, and obey every sinful desire.

**Sinners are naturally hostile to God and cannot obey His Law, as Romans 8:7-8 says,**

- “For the mind that is set on the flesh is HOSTILE TO GOD, for it does not submit to God’s Law; indeed, IT CANNOT. Those who are in the flesh CANNOT please God.”

- They don’t want to obey His commands. And that includes His command to repent and believe on Christ.

- Not only do sinners not want to, they CANNOT submit to God’s commands.

- Man, in his natural state, CANNOT do any spiritual good. That includes faith in Christ.

**In fact, man cannot believe spiritual truths. (Not in a saving way.)**

- 1 Corinthians 2:14 says, “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are FOLLY TO HIM, and HE IS NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THEM because they are spiritually discerned.”

- Blinded by sin, man naturally thinks that God’s truth is foolishness and IS NOT ABLE to receive them.

**I point those things out to begin, in order to highlight the fact that if sinners are to be saved, GOD IS GOING TO HAVE TO DO IT ALL.**

- From beginning to end, salvation **MUST** be of the **LORD**.

**2.** The Bible tells us that God has chosen a People for Himself, to be saved.

- They're called the Elect. And they're called that because God **ELECTED** them for salvation. He **CHOSE** them to receive salvation.

**Ephesians 1:3-6 says,**

- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as **HE CHOSE US** in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love **HE PREDESTINED US** for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved.”

- God has chosen certain sinners to be the recipients of His love, that they would be holy and blameless before Him in **CHRIST**.

- That is, that they would be saved by Christ.

- And God chose them from all eternity.

**Romans 8:29-30 likewise says,**

•“For those whom He (*God*) foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.”

•God has predestined certain sinners to become like Christ. And that process of sanctification only happens in those who are saved.

•So God has chosen certain sinners to be saved.

•That’s why the text then spells it out for us: Those who are predestined by God are, in time, called, justified, and glorified.

**We see, then, that God has a People.**

•He chose them from all eternity, by His grace alone.

•And He chose them to receive salvation through faith in Christ.

**3.** The Bible also teaches that Christ came into the world to save God’s Elect.

•Christ came to save the ones God chose for salvation and gave to the Son to save.

**In John 10, Jesus is talking about the work of salvation that He came to do.**

•And in v11 He says, “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”

•Jesus came to die FOR THE SHEEP.

**But who are the sheep that Christ came to die for?**

•In vv27-30, Jesus says, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 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. I and the Father are one.”

•The sheep for whom Christ came to die, are the ones that the Father gave to Him.

•The Father has chosen a People and gave them to the Son to save.

•And it’s those only that Christ came to die for. Christ came to save the Elect, the sheep.

**You see how it fits perfectly?**

•Christ came to lay down His life as a sacrifice for sin.

•Christ came to bear the sin and guilt of a particular People, and to suffer the wrath of God that they deserve for their sins.

•And He did exactly that.

•He went to the Cross and laid down His life FOR THE



SHEEP. For the Elect of God.

- And in doing so, He purchased their salvation. He bought the forgiveness of their sins by suffering and dying as their Substitute.

4. And then, in time, God draws the Elect to faith in Christ, that they might receive Him.

- In order to be saved, sinners must receive Christ and His work done for them.

- But even Elect sinners are dead in sin. So God has to work in them to bring them to spiritual life, and draw them to Christ, so they can repent and believe in Him.

- And God does exactly that.

**In John 6:37, Jesus says, “All that the Father gives me WILL COME TO ME, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”**

- All the Elect, chosen by God and redeemed by Christ, will certainly come to Christ and be saved.

**Again Jesus says in John 6:65, “...no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”**

- No one can come to Christ unless the Father gives them the ability to believe in Him.

**When the Apostle Peter confessed that Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God, Jesus said to Him,**

- “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in Heaven.”

- The Father revealed the truth about Christ to Peter.
- The Father drew Peter to faith in Christ.

**We see this all over the Epistles, too.**

**1 Peter 1:3 says,**

- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, HE HAS CAUSED US TO BE BORN AGAIN to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...”

- To be born again is to receive a new spiritual nature, spiritual life, and the gift of faith so that a sinner can believe on Christ and be saved.

- And Peter says that GOD CAUSED THAT to happen in the heart of every believer.

**In Philippians 1:29, the Apostle Paul wrote,**

- “For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but also suffer for His sake...”

- Those who believe in Christ, believe because it “HAS BEEN GRANTED” to them.

- Faith is a gift! It’s given by God!

## **Paul is more explicit about that in Ephesians**

**2:8-9:**

•“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

•Faith, which results in salvation through Christ, “is not your own doing.”

•It’s NOT the work of the sinner. It’s the “gift of God!”

•When a sinner believes on Christ, it’s because God has drawn him to Christ and enabled him to believe.

**And then we see this all throughout the book of Acts when people are converted:**

**After Peter’s first sermon, Acts 2:47 says, “And the LORD added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”**

•Who did the saving? The LORD! Jesus! God!

•He added to their number, not the Apostles. The Lord was adding to the Church.

**We see that again in Acts 5:31 where Peter said, “God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to GIVE REPENTANCE to Israel and forgiveness of sins.”**

•When a sinner repents, it’s the gift of Christ.

**In Acts 11:18, after Peter reported the conversion of the Gentiles, the assembly said, “Then to the Gentiles also God has GRANTED REPENTANCE that leads to life.”**

•Again, when a sinner repents and believes on Christ, it is God’s doing!

**Lastly, in the conversion of Lydia, we read, “The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.” (16:14)**

•Why did Lydia listen and believe what was preached?  
•Because God opened her heart. God overcame her sinful nature, gave her a new heart, and caused her to believe.

**Brothers and sisters, it’s plain that when a sinner is converted, GOD DID IT.**

- God grants the new birth.
- God reveals the truth.
- God opens hearts.
- God grants the gift of repentance.
- God grants the gift of faith.
- God draws His Elect to Christ.
- God does the converting.

**Man is dead in sin and hostile to God.**

•But God has chosen a People for salvation.

- Christ has worked their redemption.
- And God effectually draws them to Christ so they are saved.
- God is sovereign over salvation.

### **3.) And now for our second truth: GOD USES THE MEANS OF HIS PEOPLE PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO BRING HIS ELECT TO CHRIST.**

- God could save His Elect in any way He wanted.
- He could zap faith in Christ into them without any means at all.
- But He's chosen evangelism, the preaching of the Gospel, to draw His People to Christ.

#### **Romans 10:13-15 says,**

•“For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’

- The Apostle makes is very clear that sinners must believe in order to be saved.
- And in order to believe, they must hear the Gospel.
- And in order to hear it, someone must preach it.

- There is no other way. This is God's chosen method to save His People.

- That's why Paul ends this passage by saying, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ." (v17)

### **We see this again in James 1:18:**

- "Of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of Truth..."

- God grants the new birth. God is sovereign over salvation.

- BUT it's the "Word of Truth," the Gospel, that God uses to bring His People to life.

### **In 1 Corinthians 1:21, the Apostle Paul said,**

- "...it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe."

- It's the message of the Gospel that God uses to save His People.

### **Lastly, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 says,**

- "But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brother beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and BELIEF IN THE TRUTH. To this He called you THROUGH OUR GOSPEL, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- Again, God chose His People to be saved.
- And He chose them to be saved by “belief in the truth.” That is, faith in Christ.
- And He called them to faith “through our Gospel.”  
Through the preaching of the Gospel!

**So there it is:** God saves His Elect by drawing them to faith in Christ, using our preaching of the Gospel!

- Evangelism is God’s appointed means for saving His People.

**4.) Now, let’s bring these two truths together and draw a conclusion.**

- God has a People that He will certainly save.
- Christ has made atonement for their sins.
- God will draw them all to Christ in time.
- And God will use our preaching as the means to draw them to Christ.

**We preach. But God does the saving.**

- We speak to men’s ears. But God brings our message home to the hearts of the Elect.
- It is only the Elect who will respond to our message with faith, because it’s only they who will be worked upon by God and granted faith and repentance.
- We do the speaking. But God does the saving, according to His will.

**This reminds us of what The Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:6:**

•“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.”

•The two preachers were simply messengers. Their job was to proclaim.

•It was God’s job alone to make the message effective.

•A farmer can plant and water. But he can’t make the crops grow. Only God can do that.

•The same is true for Gospel preaching. God alone gives the increase, not the preacher.

**Brothers and sisters, God will not fail to save His People.**

•And He has not ordained any other means to draw His People to Christ, EXCEPT FOR evangelism.

•So we preach “whosoever will may come.”

•And we entrust the results to God, knowing that He will not fail to save His Elect, for whom Christ died.

**Friends, this is the foundation of evangelism.**

•Knowing that God is the One who saves will produce endurance, faithfulness, confidence, boldness, patience, and freedom to do the work.



**5.) So let's consider how God's sovereignty comes to bear on how we think about and practically do the task of telling unbelievers the Gospel:**

**1.** If we believe that God is sovereign in salvation, then we'll understand what evangelism actually IS and IS NOT.

- Many people think evangelism is CONVERTING sinners to Christ.

- So where there are no conversions, evangelism has failed or hasn't occurred at all.

- And if there are no results, then something needs to change if we're going to be faithful to the Great Commission.

**But is that the case? NO!**

- The Gospel is a message. And to "evangelize" simply means to proclaim the message of salvation through faith in Christ.

- So whenever the Gospel is declared, evangelism is taking place, regardless of the results.

- Whether it's in public or private, formally or informally, evangelism is simply the declaration of the Gospel.

**Hear me: EVANGELISM IS NOT CONVERTING PEOPLE.**

- Conversion and Evangelism aren't the same thing.

## **Don't misunderstand me!**

- The aim of all true evangelism is to see sinners repent and believe in Christ.
- But evangelism takes place whenever the message is proclaimed, regardless of the results.
- Conversion IS NOT the indicator of whether or not evangelism has been successful.
- Successful evangelism happens whenever the Gospel is faithfully preached. THAT'S IT.
- Mark Dever helpfully said, "Evangelism must not be confused with the fruit of evangelism."

**Think about it for a moment:** God commands us to evangelize. But we CANNOT save sinners.

- We can't change hearts, make dead men live, grant faith, make blind men see, deaf men hear, or spiritually lame men walk.
- That power rests in God alone.
- But it is within our ability to proclaim the message that God might use to do those wonderful things.
- So God tells us to SPEAK, not save. That's His job.

**Puritan William Gurnall wrote, "God never laid it upon thee to convert those He sends thee to. No, to publish the Gospel is thy duty."**

- It's not our job to save anyone. It's our job to tell the

Good News of what Jesus has done to save sinners.

- God will save His People. God will do what we can't.
- So evangelism is our work. But conversion is God's.

2. If we believe God is sovereign in salvation, then we'll not compromise the message when sinners reject it.

- There is often a temptation to water down the message.

- People get angry with you when you tell them about sin and judgment, and that Christ is their only hope.

- People might find you boring, or "too old fashioned," or call you a "hellfire and brimstone" person.

**I've personally been told many times, "It's people like you that are the reason nobody wants to go to church. You drive people away from Christ with the things you say."**

- Things like that are hard to hear.

- And Satan is incredibly smart. He'll use those things to get inside your head.

- And once you experience those things enough times, you might begin to think, "Maybe if I wasn't so strong about sin and God's wrath, they'd listen. It's a different time. People are softer now. You can't really talk to people like that today."

- Or you'll think, "Maybe I should avoid talking about

certain sins with certain kinds of people. They just get angry and won't listen."

- Or, "Can't I just talk about the positive things? Isn't that enough to make people want Jesus?"

- Or even, "Maybe I should talk to them about how practical it is to be a Christian. A better country, better family, better morals, and the like."

**These thoughts do creep in sometimes.**

- You start to think that there's something wrong with the message. So you need to bait the hook in a different way or with different bait as you fish for men.

- But, friends, that's not true.

- God does the saving. Our job is to declare the message.

**And that means that our job is to simply REMAIN FAITHFUL.**

- Faithfulness is what matters in evangelism. Not results.

- Sinners being converted is above our pay grade. We can only tell them what God has done in Christ.

**We have to reckon with the hard truth that not every sinner we talk to is Elect.**

- We don't know who the Elect are, of course. Only God knows. So we preach to everyone.

•But we must accept that we're going to be rejected. So we shouldn't be surprised or think there's something wrong with our message when it happens.

•We who preach the Gospel are “the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.”

(2 Corinthians 2:15-16)

•We smell like death to the non-Elect. They find us and the Gospel repulsive.

•That's part of God's design that we need to embrace.

•The Reprobate will never accept our message. But there is no fault in our message. The fault is with the unbeliever who rejects Christ.

**You may think, “But we're not seeing results! Surely, we need to rethink things.”**

•Dear friend, the Word of God always has an effect.

•Isaiah 55:11 says the Word of God, “shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

•And sometimes God's purpose in sending the Gospel is to harden the non-Elect in their sins.

•Hardening and increasing condemnation is an effect. It's not the effect we had hoped for. But it might be God's design for our hearers.

- Whether it's unto salvation or hardening, God's Word always does something, according to God's will.

### **BUT THAT'S GOD'S BUSINESS, NOT OURS.**

- So we won't amend the message or soften the truth or try to make things more palatable for the ungodly.

- We'll trust God to save His People, leave the Gospel alone, and remain faithful in to say what God has commanded us to say.

**3.** If we believe in the sovereignty of God in salvation, then we'll not feel pressure, to pressure people to make a "decision for Christ."

- Sometimes evangelists feel a need to try to browbeat people into praying a prayer or making a confession of faith.

- Now, in some sense, that's a good thing. We want to be urgent with people. Their eternal souls are at stake as we tell them the Gospel.

- But even while we urge men to repent and believe, it's a silly thing to try to pressure someone to become a believer.

- Why? Because we can't control that.

- By our incessant urging, we can't give them the New Birth. We can't change hearts by pestering people to make a decision.

## **Instead, we'll actually evangelize like Christ.**

- We'll tell sinners to count the cost. That it'll cost them everything to follow Jesus.

- We'll tell them, "Don't make this decision too quickly. Don't be a hypocrite. If you're not going to give your whole life to Christ, then He isn't for you."

- Jesus didn't try to pressure people to believe in Him. He offered them salvation. And He warned them that the life of a disciple would be one of self-denial. And then He left them to make a decision.

- We can do THAT, if we believe God will save His People.

**Hear me:** We'll urge them to believe. We'll warn them about Hell. We'll beg them to not delay.

- But we'll be honest with them about what it means to be a Christian. Our call to repentance will be deep.

- And at some point, if they're still on the fence, we'll end the engagement and leave it to God.

- If God has chosen that person, they'll eventually come.

- If they don't repent today, they'll repent another day.

- Our only responsibility is to warn and offer Christ to them.

## **So we can be patient!**

- Evangelism is a battle. And not all battles are won in

a single fight.

- So we'll draw swords with that sinner another day and pray that our Conquering King grant us victory then.

- And we're not doing anything wrong when we take that kind of a posture, assuming we've been earnest to plead with them.

**Brothers and sisters, we can wait on God to do the work.**

- We're simply heralds of His message.
- So the pressure for results isn't on us.

4. If we believe that God is sovereign in salvation, then we'll not have false guilt when sinners aren't converted.

- If you don't believe that it's God's will, not man's, that makes the difference in salvation, then if a sinner dies without Christ, you'll have to conclude that there's something more that YOU could've done to convince them.

- If you had one more conversation. Or a better argument. Or were a better speaker. Then MAYBE that would've made the difference.

- If it's all up to the will of men and not God, then surely you could've been more clever and won them to Christ.

- THAT IS A CRIPPLING THOUGHT. And some



Christians are broken by it if a loved one they've evangelized dies lost.

**But praise God it's not true!**

- We aren't to blame if a sinner dies without Christ. It's not our fault that they perish.

- We preached the message. That's all we can do.

- We can set Christ before people. But, ultimately, we can't convince a single person to believe.

- God has to change their heart.

- And it's God's choice alone whether or not to give grace.

**So we don't need to feel guilt when people aren't saved.**

- So long as we were faithful to call them repent and believe, we ought to have clear consciences, even though we mourn their damnation.

- God's sovereignty is the pillow on which we lay our heads at night.

**5.** If we believe that God is sovereign in salvation, we'll not worry about our skills or smarts or ability to speak when we evangelize.

- Friends, people will ask you questions that you can't answer yet.

- You'll sometimes be mocked for not thinking quickly

on your feet when someone shoots a loaded question your way or makes a smart-mouthed remark.

- Sometimes you'll stammer over your words and feel like you're grasping for what to say.

- And you'll begin to doubt whether or not you're fit to do the work.

**But it's not your smarts or skills that are going to make the difference, is it?**

- The Apostle, in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, said that he didn't come with "lofty speech or [worldly] wisdom," but was "in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom..."

- Paul wasn't concerned with impressing people with his smarts. And he was, self-confessedly, not a great speaker.

- But you know what he did? He says, "...I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

- Paul just preached the Gospel. Plain and simple. And he left the results with God.

- And he did so "so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

**Paul didn't rely on his abilities or giftedness.**

- He just opened his mouth and preached Christ.

- Friends, that all you have to do.
- It's ok if you don't know every answer to every question.
- It's ok if you're not the quickest thinker.
- It's ok if you're not the best speaker.
- You only need to tell the Gospel.

**The message is what matters, not our ability.**

- We're liberated from worry over having to say the right thing or fear over possibly saying the wrong thing.
- If we're faithful to the message, we can rest in the fact that God will do the rest.

6. If we believe that God is sovereign in salvation, we'll be full of HOPE when we speak to unbelievers.

- Hear me: If God is not sovereign, evangelism is a pointless effort.

- Why? Because man is hostile to God and unable to believe.

- But since God is sovereign, and will save His People, we can have hope for every single person we talk to.

**There are no "impossible" or even "unlikely" cases.**

- ALL ARE EQUALLY IMPOSSIBLE AND UNLIKELY!
- But God is able to save. For God's will is stronger than man's.

- We have confidence that our evangelism will be fruitful because GOD WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE.

- And we don't know who they are until they repent and believe!

- So every single person we talk to very well might repent and come to Christ, should God bless!

**We can go to unbelievers saying in our hearts, “Who knows what God might be pleased to do today?”**

- Even if it's the hundredth time we've talked to that person! Maybe today is the day God will work in their hearts!

- Brothers and sisters, no case is hopeless, because our God is able to save whomever He wills.

**Now we accept that not everyone will believe our message.**

- But we still have hope that every single person COULD become a Christian.

- So we preach to all men as if they are all Elect, hoping that God will convert them.

- We preach in hope, knowing our God is able, but simply not knowing His sovereign will.

**So we don't leave our houses with a gloomy and defeated disposition.**

- Today could be the day that we find a brother or sister!

- And why not?! Is God not able to do it?

- So we preach in hope. Because our God is sovereign.

7. Lastly, if we believe that God is sovereign in salvation, then we'll not grow weary in the work.

- If we think our job is to save sinners, then we'll see ourselves as miserable failures.

- But if we see ourselves as messengers, commissioned only to proclaim the Word of the King, then we'll see ourselves as faithful when we do the work.

- If God says, "Go and preach. And if they listen, well and good. If they don't, that's on them," then we should be energized by simply being faithful.

- Again, we've not failed, even if none are saved!

**To know that we've done EXACTLY what our King has commanded of us, and that He's pleased with our labor, is everything!**

- Yes, we're sad when we don't see people repenting.

- But we can sleep well knowing that we've obeyed our Lord, have put in a fair days' work for the Kingdom, and have nothing to be ashamed of.

- And knowing that will give us strength to get up and

do it again tomorrow.

- Friends, if the results are up to us, and we can't produce them no matter how hard we try, then we'll give up or look to something other than the Gospel to get the job done.

- But if we know it's God's work, and HE ONLY USES ONE THING, the Gospel, then we'll set ourselves to use that one thing and simply wait upon the Lord.

### **It'll still be hard.**

- But knowing that you're not a failure takes the weariness out of the work.

- If God says you're a success, if you have His smile (even without the results you'd hoped for), if He says, "Well done, good and faithful servant," then you can keep working.

**6.) In conclusion, our confidence in evangelism is that GOD IS SOVEREIGN.**

**Dear Christian, you're not a failure if no one listens.**

- You're a failure if you don't speak.
- You're a failure if you give up.
- You're a failure if you compromise the truth.
- But you're not a failure if people aren't saved.

**So, brothers and sisters, GO AND PREACH!**

•And go with confidence, for God will save His People through our preaching.

**May God give us grace to work by faith.**

•Amen.