

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Psalm 139

ANNOUNCEMENT :

Birthday Celebrants and Wedding Anniversaries for November.

INTRODUCTION :

For the past Sundays, we discussed, God know (omniscience), then we discussed about God is here (omniscience) and today, we will talk about God is in full control (sovereignty).

Definition : Sovereign

- supreme power
- absolute authority
- complete control

In short : It is the right of God to do as He wishes.

This is one of those topics that strikes at the ego or pride of man knowing full well that only God is in full control of everything and He can do what He wants to do.

One of the things that I learned from my father-in-law is when God allows something bad in our lives and we ask why, sometimes the answer is "Why not?"

But we have to remember that God's sovereignty (which is his attribute), goes hand in hand with his character of love, mercy, justice and etc.

Story : Sometimes we wonder, "What did I do to deserve this?" or "Why did God have to do this to me?" Here is a wonderful explanation!

A daughter is telling her Mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away.

Meanwhile, her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, "Absolutely, Mom, I love your cake."

"Here, have some cooking oil," her Mother offers.

"Yuck" says her daughter.

"How about a couple raw eggs?"

"Gross, Mom!"

"Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?"

"Mom, those are all yucky!"

To which the mother replies: "Yes, life is like that. It seems that God has placed all these distasteful stuff in your bowl and then afterwards, thinking that it will get better, God turns up the heat and puts you in the oven. But that's the only way we can have cake."

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!

***I found this line in the Bible :**

John 13:7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Context: Peter can't understand why Jesus who is Lord is washing feet. In his mind, he is saying, "Jesus shouldn't be doing that."

Application : We sometimes ask ourselves, "Why is God doing this to me? God shouldn't be doing this." But we just have to trust Him on who He is.

***Quote :** God is too kind to do anything cruel, too wise to make a mistake, too deep to explain Himself. We stop asking "why" when we see the "who" behind the scenes.

This is the reason why the greatest adventure you can know in this life and in eternity. is knowing who God is.

**Psalm 139*

¹³ For you created my inmost being;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful,

I know that full well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you

when I was made in the secret place.

When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body.

All the days ordained for me

were written in your book

before one of them came to be.

Pray

Note : To your surprise, this is going to be a short sermon. I'm not in the habit of creating short sermons because as they say "Sermonettes make Christianettes". But the reason why this sermon is short is because the material is full of substance. By God's grace we may fathom the depth of His word.

***Outline :**

I. GOD KNOWS.

II. GOD IS HERE.

III. GOD IS IN FULL CONTROL.

Review :

***I. GOD KNOWS**

In summary : The Lord knows everything.

***II. GOD IS HERE.**

As we studied last time : God is omnipresent

***I want to emphasize again regarding God's Omnipresence :**

Exodus 3: ¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I am who I am . This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'

To explain : God has no past or no future. He is always present. He is not "I was" or "I will be" He is called "I am"

*(show 680 news)

Illustration : If you listen to 680 news, they give you up-to-date traffic report. One of the things they use to monitor traffic are airplanes. If you ride one of those airplanes, you see the bigger picture. You see the reason for the traffic in 401 is an accident in Mavis. To the one in the airplane, everything is present right before his eyes. But to the one who is inside the car and he is still in Dixie, he doesn't know what's happening. Mavis is still in the future for him.

God is so majestic, that right now, He is right now seeing you being born, He is seeing you when you were in Grade 6, He is seeing you right now, and He is seeing your future. To some youth here, He maybe seeing you right now playing with your grandchildren. HE IS ALWAYS PRESENT.

***Some people say that Jesus did not claim He was God. The Son of God, yes, but not God. But look at this :**

John 8 : ⁵⁷"You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

⁵⁸"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

Important Note : Jesus did NOT say, "before Abraham was born, I was there." NO, He said, "I am." This is the reason why the people tried to stone Him afterwards because to their ears that was blasphemy.

And this is what we're going to learn today : GOD IS SOVEREIGN!!!

III. GOD IS IN FULL CONTROL

Why?

***1. The Lord created who we are**

How did He create us?

***a.) The Lord created our inner person.**

¹³ For you created my inmost being;

Etymology : inmost being; reins (KJV) “kilyah” seat of desires and affections;
This is who you are on the inside, how you think, how you feel...how you react...

In short : God is sovereign that He already knows how we are going to feel or react to a certain situation. He even controls how we are going to react to a certain situation.

***Example :**

Exodus 4: ²¹ The LORD said to Moses, "When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.

Joshua 11: ²⁰ For it was the LORD himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

*John 12: ⁴⁰"He has blinded their eyes
 and deadened their hearts,
 so they can neither see with their eyes,
 nor understand with their hearts,
 nor turn—and I would heal them."*

Important Note : I know that you are thinking right now...but what about freewill? If God hardens the heart then it means we don't have freewill. NO! We still have freewill.

**Hebrews 3: ¹⁵As has just been said:
 "Today, if you hear his voice,
 do not harden your hearts
 as you did in the rebellion." (found also in Psalm 95:7,8)*

Revelations 3: ²⁰Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

But you may ask : How can that be pastor?

My answer : I don't know.

This is what you call parallel truth.

Note : If I can fully comprehend God, then He is not God. This is the reason why for the past 3 weeks I have in my own weak way by the grace of God trying to present to you who God is. Though feeble in attempt, **the purpose of all of this is for us to WORSHIP HIM.** That we are not the centre of the universe. **GOD IS THE CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE.**

***Look :**

*Isaiah 55: ⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

***Remember :** There are things that we cannot explain even in the Bible. We just have to believe it.

Deuteronomy 29: ²⁹ The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

***Quote :**

To the things we cannot understand : WORSHIP

To the things we can understand : OBEDIENCE

Application : God's sovereignty is the one that gives me peace, knowing that He is fully in control.

***Remember this prayer?**

This is what they call the serenity prayer : (Serenity, a state of being calm and peaceful)
- attributed to Reinhold Neihbur

God, grant us the...

Serenity to accept things we cannot change,
Courage to change the things we can, and the
Wisdom to know the difference

Patience for the things that take time
Appreciation for all that we have, and
Tolerance for those with different struggles
Freedom to live beyond the limitations of our past ways, the
Ability to feel your love for us and our love for each other and the
Strength to get up and try again even when we feel it is hopeless.

Next week : We'll continue to talk about God's sovereignty even in your physical attributes/capabilities and how God is sovereign about your life.

Now we thank God for His sovereignty, that because He loves us and for His glory, He sent His own Son Jesus Christ to pay for our sins.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD.

S.G.D.