

## The Sovereignty of God

In order to know the Lord as He is, we must know Him as the Sovereign God. But what does this mean? Certainly it means that He created all things and that He governs all things. But does He actually predetermine who is saved? Does He rule over things that are evil?

What the Bible teaches us is that God decrees everything that comes to pass (Psalm 135:6), including the hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30), the decisions of human beings (Proverbs 21:1), our eternal salvation (Romans 9:10-18; Ephesians 1:4, 5), and every historical event, both good and bad (Isaiah 45:7; Lamentations 3:37, 38).

### Romans 8:28-30

<sup>28</sup>And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

In the very famous verse of Scripture we are here considering, Romans 8:28, Paul is teaching us several things about God's sovereignty:

- 1) He is in charge of everything in our lives;
- 2) He works out everything for the good of those who love Him; and
- 3) those who love Him are called by Him for His purposes.

What difference does all this make? Four things come to mind:

- 1) when we are suffering various afflictions we can be sure that God has ordained our trials for a purpose that will ultimately be for our good;
- 2) we can especially know for sure that we will receive eternal life, because God always brings to completion what He has begun;
- 3) we are humbled to our rightful place as an unworthy recipient of sovereign grace
- 4) God is exalted to His rightful place as Sovereign King of the universe.

*"A consciousness of our powerlessness should cast us upon Him who has all power. Here then is where a vision and view of God's sovereignty helps, for it reveals His sufficiency and shows us our insufficiency."*

—Arthur W. Pink

