



GRACE GOSPEL MINISTRY

Liberating / Grace

SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

The term sovereign entails the absolute right to execute one's will, plan or purpose without challenge, opposition or question from anyone outside of oneself. God is the only one who fits this description. Most recognize that He is the creator of all things in the universe (Colossians 1:16). All of His creation is in total subordination to everything that He says and every act that He does. There is a bumper sticker, which reads, "God said it, I believe it and that settles it." In actuality, it is enough to say God said it, which is what settles it.

When one considers the matter of the Sovereignty of God, few would argue that God existed before all things, being the cause uncaused. None would dispute the fact that God made all things by simply speaking them into existence. However, in the study of salvation (soteriology), many will abandon the concept of the Sovereignty of God, i.e., no longer does He have the absolute right to execute His will without input outside of Himself. Mankind has been taught to believe that they somehow have input into their salvation, believing that dead sinners within themselves are capable of initiating a relationship with God. If this popular and humanistic appraisal of man's ability is true, then why does God emphasize in His word that He

is the initiator of the salvation relationship. (Acts 13:48; Romans 8:28-30; 9:10-18, 23-24; 11:6-7; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 1:3-6; 11-12; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; Titus 1:1; 2 Peter 1:10)

We do not and are not participants in God's determinant will. The term will is defined, as what one has determined shall be done. Mankind is excluded as actors or initiators from God's determinant will. His determinant will, plan and purpose was established in eternity, because no one other than God existed in eternity, His will is exclusive of man's participation. The word of God teaches that the sovereignty of God concerning His choice and election falls into this category of His determined will, plan and purpose. God has an eternal sovereign plan and purpose based on His determined will to restore some (not all) of mankind back into fellowship with Himself. (Romans 9:11-21)

If one is to embrace the statement that God is Sovereign, then the fact that it is exclusively the sovereign grace of God that leads one to salvation cannot be ignored. Salvation is the direct result of God's plan that He initiated in eternity. All things that occur in time can be traced back to God's purpose and plan in eternity. (2 Timothy 1:9). See: "Who are God's Elect?".