

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD FOR SALVATION

John 6:37

Introduction:

1. The Foundations for Understanding our Salvation

A) There are two foundations

> John introduced them to us in the Prologue of this Gospel (John 1:12-13)

> Jesus identifies them as He teaches the crowds (John 6:37)

B) The Sovereignty of God for Salvation

> Notice the clarity of Jesus' teaching concerning this foundation (John 6:37a, 44)

> When was God's plan for Salvation decided? (Ephesians 1:3-6)

He **chose us** "in Christ" **before** the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:3-4)

Those who God chose are "elect" according to the foreknowledge of God (1 Peter 1:1-2)

Foreknowledge – simply means to know before

Foreknowledge used in another context (Acts 2:22-24)

Did God look into the future and see that His Son Jesus had become a man and would die at the hands of wicked men?

OR, did God determine ahead of time that He would send His Son into the world to make salvation possible through His death, burial, and resurrection?

> Why is God's sovereignty in salvation so important or necessary?

First, because it results in the praise of His glory, not man's (Ephesians 1:6, 12b, 14d)

Second, because of the impact of the Fall demand His intervention

In Adam we are all born spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1)

In Adam we were estranged from God and not seeking a way back (Rom 3:9-12)

> Can mankind's sinful rebellion thwart God's plan for salvation? NO!!

Even the most rebellious acts of sinful humanity accomplish His will (Acts 2:22-24)

Even those who have devoted their lives to the opposition of the gospel are helpless before God (Galatians 1:11-17)

* Anyone and everyone who minimizes or excludes the sovereignty of God for salvation must set aside more than just a few texts of Scripture - they must set aside the entire story of the Bible.

B) The Responsible Choice of Man for Salvation

> The story of the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation, records the stories of men and women who are held responsible for the choices that they made

Adam and Eve – created perfectly by God in His image with an ability and responsibility to choose obedience or rebellion

QUESTION: If God's plan of redemption was determined before the foundation of the earth did Adam and Eve really have a choice?

Could Adam and Eve have not sinned?

The way God tells the story – yes they could have not sinned

The way some people tell the story – no they had to sin because God had determined their choice and the remedy before the foundation of the world

* In God's telling of the story His sovereignty does not negate man's responsible choice.

> Jesus acts and speaks as if men could make a responsible choice

Notice the absence of Jesus' emphasis upon the sovereignty of God (John 6:34-35)

Listen to Jesus' invitation in Matthew 11:28-30)

TIME OUT: I am not suggesting that we can minimize or reject the antecedent of God's sovereignty which we just established in our last point

Rather, I want to take seriously all of what Jesus says – including the responsible choice to see, to come, and to believe in Jesus Christ

Listen to Paul's invitation in Romans 10:9-13

Listen to Luke's account of Paul's ministry in Acts 13:44-48

Two foundational truths about salvation which when considered seriously independent of each other seem to minimize the significance of the other – TO US

Yet to God they are both fully true and there is no need to minimize either one in order to embrace the full truth of the other.