

Understanding the Value of the Sovereignty of God

Overview of chapter 11 of AW Pink's "The Sovereignty of God"

2 Timothy 3:16-17

In our opening scripture...All scripture is profitable first for what? _____

The Christian mind and heart is in desperate need of doctrinal teaching. (vs practical)

We tend to break teaching into _____ vs practical

Reality: Doctrine is the basis (foundation) of practical life, so may we never claim it to be impractical!

All of this "practical teaching" has led to shallow, weak and _____ believers in the church. The doctrines of grace aren't the problem, they are part of the solution.

"Let your heart be warmed towards the growing understanding of the doctrine of God and the exaltation of Jesus Christ!" – AW Pink, p.132

"The doctrine of God's sovereignty lies at the foundation of Christian theology, and in importance is perhaps second only to the divine inspiration of scripture. It is the center of gravity in the system of Christian truth; the sun around which all the lesser orbs are grouped; the court upon which all other doctrines are strung like so many pearls, holding them in place and giving them unity. That is the plumb line by which every creed needs to be tested; the balance in which every human dogma must be weighed. It is designed as the sheet-anchor for our souls amid the storms of life." -pg 132-133, cover

This doctrine of the sovereignty of God is meant to _____ our spirits, mold our hearts and direct our conduct.

Its' effect? gratitude in prosperity, patience in _____, comfort for the present and security with respect to the unknown future.

"All of this and more is done as we ascribe to God (Father, Son and Spirit), the glory due Him and place the creature in his proper place before God - in the dust." Page 133

1. The sovereignty of God deepens the veneration of the Divine _____. **1Cor 8:6** **Rev 4:11**

We have no right to question God but only to submit to His rule.

"Thus the apprehension of the absolute supremacy of God is of great practical importance, for unless we have a proper regard to his high sovereignty, he will never be honored in our thoughts of him, nor will he have his proper place in our hearts and lives." Pg 133

a. His sovereignty shows His inscrutable _____.

b. His sovereignty is seen in the irreversibility of his **will**.

His will/plan has been from the beginning: to _____ Himself. **Eph. 3:21**

WSC #7

Q. What are the decrees of God?

The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass. **Eph 1:11**

c. His sovereignty _____ His grace

"Sovereign grace reveals God's breaking down the opposition of the human heart, subduing the enmity of the carnal mind, and bringing us to love him because he first loved us." Pg 134

2. The sovereignty of God is the solid _____ of all true religion.

If God is not seen as sovereign over all, he will not be feared, revered or served as Lord.

This is truly the basis for true religion. The conformity of my _____ to God's sovereign will.

3. The sovereignty of God repudiates the _____ of salvation by works.

If we say that salvation turns on the will of man, we dishonor God and praise man. **Rom 9:16**

Q. But won't this lead to despair?!?!?

A. *"It is not until the sinner despairs of any help from himself, that he will ever fall into the arms of sovereign mercy; but if once the Holy Spirit convicts him that there is no help in himself, then he will recognize that he is lost, and will cry 'God be merciful to me a sinner' and such a cry will be heard" p.136*

4. The sovereignty of God is deeply humbling to the _____.

Pink calls God's sovereignty the great battering ram against the human pride.

"The achievements of man, his development and progress, his greatness and self-sufficiency, are the shrine at which the world worships today." P136

"He not only must apply but supply, complete and begin His saving work in our souls, that He must reclaim, sustain and maintain us to the end" p137 **John 1:13**

We want to contribute something to price of His redemption. But this only gives way to _____ and self-satisfaction.

"If by nature, we were 'children of wrath' and by practice rebels against the divine government and justly exposed to the 'curse' of the law, and if God was under no obligation to rescue us from the fiery indignation, and yet notwithstanding, He delivered up his well-beloved son for us all; then how such grace and love will melt our hearts!" **Psalms 115:1**

5. The sovereignty of God affords a sense of absolute _____.

God is infinite in power and impossible to withstand his will or resist the outworking of his decrees.

Warm your heart? What if you add one word to that? _____ God...

This has been the thought that saints through the ages have rested upon.

Moses – **Deut. 33:26-27**

Psalmist – **Ps 91**

Us – **2 Timothy 1:12**