

Is God Sovereign?

(08/16/17)

Text: 1 Cor 3:1-8

- I. Division is the true problem at Corinth, not doctrine
 - A) Some Corinthians were evidently sneering at Paul's basic message compared to the more advanced teaching of Apollos
 - 1) Paul was Obstetrician and Apollos the Pediatrician to the Corinthians
 - i. Paul would assume a different role to other like the Romans
 - 2) Each man did the part the Lord assigned them
 - i. **Eph 2:10**- We are His workmanship appointed to a certain task
 - ii. **Rom 12:3-8**- Each portion of the body does the foreordained task it was assigned
 - 3) So Paul is basically writing to the Corinthians and saying, "Why are you exalting mere tools in the plan of God to the heads of parties?"
 - 4) **1 Cor 3:5**- "By whom ye believed"
 - 5) There is one foundation (one solid single rock) for the House, but an ever varying superstructure
 - i. A tool that is fitted to one task may be totally useless in another. The same goes for materials
 - B) Increased also "grow"- **Eph 2:21** and **Col 2:19**- The building is built by God, not man
 - 1) **Psa 127:1**- Except the Lord build the house, it is in vain
 - B) Can man "will" a seed grow? Can he by his "will" prevent drought or infestation? Can man "will" conception? Or can he through his "will" stave off a miscarriage? Can man "will" a child be born a certain sex?
 - 1) Man is nothing!
 - i. **Job 4:19**- Tenant in a house of clay
 - ii. **Job 25:6**- Worm
 - iii. **Psa 8:4**- 1 atom in a universe
 - iv. **Isa 40:22**- Grasshopper in His sight
 - 2) **Gen 11:30**- Sarai was barren and had no child
 - i. This is a great cornerstone text in scripture. It seems small and insignificant, but it is the story of man in all scripture, completely impotent outside the action of God
 - a) If God doesn't "open the womb" there is no conception, and outside the will of God, no child has ever been born

1. **John 15:5**- Without Me ye can do nothing
 2. **John 1:12-13**- Not by mans will or power does new birth come
 - (a) Then how does this take place?
 - (1) **Eph 2:8-9** BY GRACE through faith, and the faith aint yours! “BY GRACE” eliminates ALL man’s claims, whether physical or spiritual
 - (2) **Acts 18:27**- BY GRACE (zero merit)
 - (3) **Acts 15:11**- BY GRACE (zero merit)
 - 1) Paul and Barnabas were never sources of grace nor of faith
 - 2) **Heb 12:2**- Christ the Author & Finished of faith (from A to Z and every point in between)
 - 3) **Phil 1:6**- He which hath BEGUN.....
- C) Seed cannot be planted unless the soil is opened or “broken”
- 1) In the rocky terrain of Palestine this is done by the former rain, and without this, no crop can be produced. Can man make it rain?
 - i. The former rain opens the earth so that seed can be accepted and the latter rain brings the crop to fruition
 - a) Perfect picture of conception and birth
 - 2) The power to produce does not lay in the soil, the water, nor the sun. It is God alone who can produce crops
 - i. Salvation’s power doesn’t lie in humans, or words, or learning, but God alone.
 - 3) In the same way in which the womb must be opened and the egg present before the seed can enter and bear fruit, the ear and heart of man must be “circumcised” before the Seed can bear fruit. Only God can do this
 - i. **Acts 16:14**- The Lord opened Lydia’s heart
 - a) Now how exactly does this take place, and is it a opening of the physical fleshly heart, or is it an opening of another, like the womb?
 1. **Jer 24:7**- I will give them a heart to know me
 - (a) **Jer 17:9**- This can’t be old incurable heart
 2. **Jer 31:33-34**- His will can’t be written in old heart
 3. **Jer 32:39**- I will give them one heart
 4. **Ezek 36:24-28**- I will give new heart and Spirit and I will CAUSE them to do my will
 - ii. **Deut 30:6**- Lord will circumcise the heart
 - a) Did a Jewish baby ask or “will” to be circumcised, or was it the act of his father?
 - b) And what happens years later, at his bar mitsva is actually his “coming out” or adoption into Judaism by choice

- c) If truth is “sown in the heart” then the heart must be given first, because the old heart cannot receive it
1. **1 Cor 2:14**- Natural man can’t receive spiritual things, and the Seed is spiritual
 - (a) **Rom 3:11**- There is none that seeketh after God.
 - (1) Every person or group in scripture that is ever told to “seek” God is already His, such as the nation Israel under the Old Covenant
 2. **Gen 2:7**- Adam had form but no life till God “breathed the breath of life” in him
 - (a) Eternal life had no beginning, it is outside time. Therefore, the life of a saved person can’t “begin” at a point, it was always in God the same way we were always in Adam
 - (1) **Rom 8:28-29**- Predestinated
 - (2) **Eph 1:3-11**- Predestined according to the purpose of Him that WORKETH ALL THINGS AFTER THE COUNSEL OF HIS WILL
 - (3) **Acts 4:28**- Even the lost can’t go beyond His will
 - (4) **1 Cor 2:7**- This wisdom was planned before the world

III. Election

- A) **Isa 45:4**- Elect without yet knowing God
- B) **1 Pet 1:2**- Elect according to sanctification of the Spirit (not according to man’s intense personal faith)
 - 1) *Electos*- also “chosen”
 - 2) **2 Tim 2:10**- Paul endured for the elect that they might obtain salvation
 - 3) **Mark 13:20**- The “elect” are chosen by Him, not themselves
 - i. A candidate that influences the outcome of election is guilty of a crime
 - 4) **John 6:70**- “I chose you”
 - 5) **John 15:16**- You have not chosen Me, I chose you
 - 6) **1 Cor 1:27-28**- God chose foolish things (me)
 - 7) **Eph 1:4**- God chose us before the world
 - i. An overly disp. Person will say the “chosen” were only the apostles, but not so
 - ii. **1 Pet 5:13**- The church “elected” (**1 Thess 1:4**)
 - iii. **Rom 9:11**- God acts by His Own election
 - 8) **Rom 11:5**- The “election of grace” (not merit)

Final notes:

- Those that seek division generally do so by labeling a person with an idea they have already established as rejected, such as “he is a Calvinist”

- Have those who are so opposed to “Calvinism” read what Calvin wrote? Or do they instead follow what their denomination has told them He said and make their determination based upon the words of men and not the word of God.
- I never met John Calvin
- I do not claim to be a “Calvinist” nor any other “ist”, I am a Christian
- I never said some men can’t be saved, I said none can be saved without God saving them.
- The general thing you hear when someone mentions “Calvinism” is that a person has taught or believes that God is only saving certain people, and therefore He is going to save them, so why go out and preach the gospel. They always say “this is the danger of believing in predestination.” Yet I ask you to consider how much time these YouTube critics spend preaching the gospel. Generally, these men want only to get you labeled so they can siphon off someone from your class in order to get them over to their house to hear not the gospel, but some ridiculous pet doctrine which they have dreamed up or have been duped into, and all for the glory of self and not having anything to do with the glory of Christ.
- I’d rather fellowship with a sincere Seventh Day Adventist who wishes to spread the gospel for the glory of God than to be forced to spend time with one of these doctrinal experts or chart artists!
- DOCTRINE IS NOT CHRIST, and a man can spend a lifetime learning doctrine and never know the Lord.