

Dear Family,

Our God reigns, . . . and reigns, . . . and reigns!

Understanding and resting in the sovereignty of our good God is critical to our ability to “glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.” In the late nineteenth century, the Reformed professor B.B Warfield of Princeton University put it this way:

A God who could or would make a creature whom He could not or would not control, is no God. . .

He would have ceased to be a moral being. It is an immoral act to make a thing that we cannot or will not control.

The only justification for making anything is that we both can and will control it.

If a man should manufacture a quantity of an unstable high-explosive in the corridors of an orphanage

and when the stuff went off would seek to excuse himself by saying that he could not control it,

no one would count his excuse as valid. ‘What right had he to manufacture it,’ we would say, ‘unless he could control it?’

He relieves himself of none of the responsibility for the havoc wrought by pleading inability to control his creation.

To suppose that God has made a universe – or even a single being – the control of which He renounces,

is to accuse Him of similar immorality.”

Wow! Did you get that? Those who deny God’s sovereignty over every aspect of His creation are accusing God of immorality?

But we can rest in this truth that is both revealed in Scripture and comprehensible by reason, that God, as the most moral of beings, is in control. The LORD told Moses that *He* made eyes and ears as well as the *deaf and the blind!* (Exodus 4:11)

As Dr. R.C. Sproul says, “There is not a maverick molecule in the universe!”

So what’s the cash value in this?

It comes to us daily when we see things happening around us, to us, and to our family and loved ones that are in violation of God’s law (what we call His prescriptive will, or what He actually requires of us in His holiness). People don’t always keep the Ten commandments in their actions toward us (and that includes you). Yet God is so very sovereign that His will is still done -

accomplished.

Violations of His commands occur *under* His sovereignty.

A drunk driver that injures a relative of yours or you, does not catch God by surprise. *He that watches over Israel slumbers not nor sleeps. (Ps 121)* God not only *can* but *is* using everything that occurs in your life to His purposes. With no flippancy or lack of sensitivity, we may bow after every providence (and during the event) and declare to God: *"Thanks. I needed that!"*

In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

(1 Thess. 5:18)

Now, as the Lord Christ often asked His disciples, *"Do you believe this?"* Is your devotional life marked by the expression, *"Thanks, I needed that."*? To neglect or deny this glorious truth has the effect of throwing salt on a wound. We act as if our good God does not know or does not care or cannot help. This, of course, is dread slander. As the Great Physician, He is also the High Pharmacist, and as such He is prescribing the exact combinations of the necessary providences to draw our heads, hearts, and hands closer to Him. In His perfect wisdom and gentle shepherding, He is also setting the timing and duration. *As a father pities his children, so the LORD has mercy on those who fear Him. (Ps. 103)* He does this for *His* glory. The immeasurable benefits to us are a side-effect. Every aspect of Creation and Salvation is for *His* glory. **And** He is so good and so sovereign, that we actually continue in perpetual blessing even when others around us are in direct violation of His revealed commands.

Walk in this;
rest in this;
worship in this.

Please keep this Lord's Day in your prayers. Pray for excellence in Christ-exalting, Spirit-led worship. Pray that we would see credible evidence of true salvations, observable sanctification, and genuine brokenness and repentance wherever and however appropriate. Pray for visitors. Pray that we would see God drawing together His worshippers from around the area and establishing His kingdom in such a way that all would declare with us, *"This is the LORD's doing and it is marvelous (impossible) in our eyes!"*

You will notice some "construction" going on in the St. Thomas Hall this Lord's Day. Ellis Furst and her able assistant Ruth Kash are completely redoing the alcoves. They will be painted to look like stone and will be a dramatic improvement in time for the special service we are planning Thursday, April 9 for Easter. Pray that God

will bless them as He did Bezalel and Oholiab as they crafted the articles for the Tabernacle.

Let us prepare for the Lord's day by resting well Saturday evening and awakening with the spirit, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.'"

Arrive on time and expecting to be healed.

I love you all and praise God for the arbor of sweetness that is River City,

iBob