

Soverign: reigning supreme and answerable to no higher authority

I once bought my Mother a birthday card, with a funny joke in it. On the cover of the card was the depiction of a fellow on a great quest. He was saying, "I searched the world, and climbed the highest mountain to find the great guru who would answers life's greatest questions, and I have finally found him!"

Inside the card was a picture of the fellow, standing before a meditative looking little guy who when asked the great question replied, "Some questions ain't got no answers."

Mercy

As a man who knows that he has sinned, against God and my fellow man, I realize that I am in need of God's Mercy. Fortunately, I receive it, and by God's Grace, I receive it in ways that I do not even deserve. I try not to take God's mercy for granted, because here's the thing about Mercy. It's voluntary; never obligatory. Where we humans get the idea that God is *obligated* to extend His Mercy to whomever we would like to have it extended - sometimes ourselves first - is beyond me! It is seemingly a noble thought, but in acuality we don't even extend mercy to one another! In fact, in all of life's experience throughout all the ages, and theologically, it is simply not true.

Grace and Mercy are things to be extended voluntarily, and they are things that God extends voluntarily, though we usually neither understand it, nor see it that way. This does however happen to be the case when we believe that there is a Sovereign God who oversees all that is. And really, what are the alternatives? Dare we consider *Any*? Here are some...

Maybe God is not sovereign.

Maybe He isn't God at all.

Maybe He can't do all that we think He can and wish He would.

Maybe He can do everything, but doesn't care enough to do so.

Who's in charge?

One might note that in all of those few possibilities, the arbiter of what's right, what's to be done, and how things ought to turn out is... correct... us;

we ourselves. Yikes.

But in Truth none of those few possibilities identify the God of this universe; neither as He has revealed Himself, nor as He has been experienced. Indeed, and like it or not, as any and all can see, the God of the universe is sovereign. If not, what, pray tell, has man been able to change? Indeed, having any other idea does little more than relegate us to the position of atheism. The problem with atheism is that in our hearts, we know that God is, and so we really have no choice but to acknowledge His sovereignty.

How do we know?

Jesus is recorded as having said that the knowledge of God is like the wind blowing; you see what it does, but you don't know it's source. John 3 He also said the knowledge of God is like a seed planted in the ground. Somehow, that dead thing that you bury in the dirt, receives life. Mark 3 Knowing that "God is", is like that. Isn't it?

But stuck in this human frame as we are, we are axiomatically incapable of understanding this eternal Truth, even as we experience it.

Why do I tell you all this today?

I have been receiving prayer requests from friends, parishioners, loved ones, etc, whom are experiencing situations in their lives and in the lives of their loved ones, which cannot be explained, other than to say that God is sovereign and His ways are beyond our comprehension. I submit to you that this is the good news and the bad news.

One might think that he/she wants to know *Why* God is doing what He is doing, or *Why* God is allowing the things that He is allowing, but I would caution against that. In most cases, I'm afraid we'd have just as much – if not more – reasons for disagreeing with His decisions, were we to know the reasons for them.

And now?

I said this to one of our prayer request-ers... *"I once told my daughter, when she was just a little kid, that there are some things that Daddy's gonna have to ask God when he gets to see Him. I'll add this one to the list."*

Please take requests for prayer seriously. One can never know what God will do in the heart of those who are speaking with Him, even if on the behalf of others.

And here's a piece of good advice from the Apostle Paul...

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1Thes 5:16-18

Pastor