



Lesson 35: On a mission from God

In today's study, I talked about God's sovereignty in all things, even things that seem incomprehensible to us.

So, briefly here, I'm going to repeat those points in text form, with the Scripture references for you to check out on your own.

- 1) God created everything. It's all His. It all belongs to Him. Everything and every person. (Genesis 1:1-31)
- 2) God judges all creation by His standard of holiness, not ours. We don't get to call God to account and demand He give us an answer for His actions; He owes us *nothing*. Not even the air we breathe. (Romans 5:6-11, Romans 9:20-22), James 1 :13-18)
- 3) According to His standard of holiness, all that we have earned is the death penalty. Not one of us is righteous or good enough to stand in His presence and argue our case. (Romans 3:10-18)
- 4) *By His mercy*, not through us earning it or deserving it, God has chosen to rescue those who call on His name from eternal punishment. (Romans 3:23-26, Ephesians 1:3-14)
- 5) God knows what we will choose before we choose it. Even in cases like this, where God calls for the destruction of an entire group of people, *He alone* knew what the hearts of these people were like and *He alone* is able to see whether they would ever choose to repent or not. (Jeremiah 17:10, 1 Samuel 16:7, Psalm 139:23-24, 2 Timothy 2:20)
- 6) Don't think for a minute that it made God happy to do this. He sent His Son into the world so that none may perish but all might have everlasting life with Him. Perishing souls doesn't make God happy, but, in His Sovereignty, this was necessary for *His* glory and for *His* purpose. (John 3:16-21)
- 7) We have absolutely NO BUSINESS questioning God's motives or judgments. (Isaiah 29:17, Isaiah 45:9-10, Job 40:2, Job 38-39, Job 40:7-41:34)
- 8) God doesn't speak to us in this way anymore. We are no longer spoken to by prophets in this way. So, if any dictator claims that God has told him he is supposed to wipe out an entire group of people, you can be sure that the dictator is NOT speaking for God. (Hebrews 1:1-4)

Read Ephesians 5:1-21. Where does this passage tell us we "once were"?

Where are we now? How should we walk, in light of that?

Read John 3:16-20. According to this passage, what judgment has been given?

What do those who love wicked things hate?

Read Acts 26:12-18. What did Jesus send Paul to the Gentiles to do?

Read 1 Corinthians 4:5. Who will bring to light the "hidden" things?

What hidden things is Paul talking about?

Knowing that God knows all the hidden things of our hearts, and that nothing is truly hidden from him, read 1 John 1:5-10. What must we do when we sin?

Today, if you are struggling with God's sovereignty, especially in areas that cause you pain, re-read those verses above. Also, spend some time examining your life. Do you hate the sin you once loved? Or are you still enjoying your time in darkness, loving the darkness and hating and resenting the light? Bring it to God today, ask Him to help you to have His word in you, to love His light and hate the darkness.