

## **Biblical Theology**

### **U2L12: Sovereignty of God Part 2**

#### **Importance of Human Actions**

- 1. Every human being is responsible for his or her own actions.**
  - Genesis 3:12-13 – “What is this that you have done?”
  - Revelation 20:13 – Each person was judged according to what they had done.
- 2. Our actions have real results and change the course of events.**
  - 1 Samuel 23:11-13 - When Saul was told that David had escaped..he gave up.
  - Numbers 14:1-4 - We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”
- 3. God allows prayer to affect the outcome of events.**
  - James 4:2 - You do not have, because you do not ask.
  - John 16:24 - Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.
  - Exodus 32:12-14 - And the Lord relented from the disaster...

#### **The Mystery of Wills**

- Jesus
  - Acts 2:23 - this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
  - The Will of God:
    - Happened according to God’s plan and foreknowledge.
  - The Will of Man
    - Jesus was crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
  - Conclusion:
    - God mysteriously used the willing choices of man to carry out his sovereign plan of salvation.
- Joseph
  - The Will of Man
    - Joseph’s brothers were wrongly jealous of him. (Gen. 37:11)
    - Joseph’s brothers wrongly hated Joseph. (Gen. 37:4,5,8)
    - Joseph’s brothers wanted to kill Joseph. (Gen. 37:28)
    - Changed their minds decided to throw him in pit. (Gen. 37:24)
    - Changed their minds again, decided to sell him into slavery (Gen. 37:28)
  - The Will of God
    - God sent me before you to preserve life (Gen. 45:5)
    - You meant evil what God meant for good (Gen. 50:20)
  - Conclusion
    - Every decision made by men were mysteriously within God’s providence and were used by God to bring about his plan and purposes.
- Pharaoh
  - The Will of God
    - God hardened Pharaoh’s (Ex. 4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:20; 10:27; 11:10; 14:4)
  - The Will of Man
    - Pharaoh hardened his own heart (Ex. 8:15; 8:32; 9:34)
  - Conclusion:
    - God administered a series of events that mysteriously caused Pharaoh’s willing stubbornness to further harden his heart and was used by God to bring about his plan and purposes.

- Jonah
  - The Will of Man
    - The men on board ship to Tarshish took up Jonah and threw him into the sea. (Jonah 1:15)
  - The Will of God
    - “You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas” (Jonah 2:3)
  - Conclusion:
    - God mysteriously caused the men on the ship to make a willing choice that was within God's providence and was used by God to bring about his plan and purposes.
  
- Job's Children
  - Will of Man
    - Sabeans and Chaldeans plunder Job's livestock and workers.
  - Will of God:
    - God gave Satan permission to test Job
    - *Job 1:21 - The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.*
  - Conclusion:
    - God mysteriously sovereignly allowed the wills of others to bring about his plan and purposes in Job's life.

### **Conclusion**

- A healthy view of God's Sovereignty regarding the will of God and the will of man contains the following ingredients:
  - God's sovereign plan and purposes.
  - The willing choices of man.
  - Mystery

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How does the consideration of God's providence and sovereignty affect the way you view the future? How does it affect the way you view your choices?
2. What is the best thing that has happened to you this week? Have you thanked God for this? What is the most difficult thing you have been dealing with recently? Have you expressed to God your trust in his sovereign hand to bring about his plan and purposes through this situation?
3. How does a biblical understanding of the mysterious interaction between the will of God and the will of man give you peace? Explain.

### **Reading Assignment**

None