

In Defense of God's Sovereignty and Grace

Romans 3.5 But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.) 6 Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world? 7 For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? 8 And why not say, "Let us do evil that good may come"—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.

* What is the argument the unbelieving Jews are making?

They are mocking what?

* God's _____ is one of the main features of the _____ and one of the main elements of God's _____ to mankind leading to salvation.

* God's power to save is rooted in his _____ over _____ and _____.

* How do these passage reflect that?

— Psalm 33.6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. 10 The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. 11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations. 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

— Daniel 4.34 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the

earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

— Romans 8.28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

— Phil 4.6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

* Every believer in Scripture plug to God's _____ as one of their greatest _____. When it comes to the practical Christianity of _____ and _____, every believer cherishes the _____ of God.

* The difficulties come in when we try to _____ how God's sovereignty _____.

* The most important truths of the Christian faith involve _____ we cannot explain. Name some examples.

* The early creeds were not so much attempts to

_____ them as to _____ them.

* While God in the Bible does not attempt to explain these paradoxes, he does _____ them so people can see and understand, even if they cannot explain.

* What is Peter saying in Acts 2.23-24: “[Jesus], being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”?

* How does Peter clarify this in Acts 4.27-28: “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.”?

* Scripture doesn't tell us _____ this works, but it tells us from beginning to end _____ it works. It also tells us, as Joseph informed his brothers, “What you meant for evil, God meant for _____ in order to _____ many people” (Gen 50.20).

* If we take God out of the picture and presuppose a naturalistic univervers, the outcome is complete _____ with no _____ at all.

* The crucifixion of Christ was at once the _____ act in history and the _____ act in history.

* We need to quit trying to explain _____ God's sovereignty works, and start embracing _____ it works, and _____ Him that it does.

* People who understand God's sovereignty are not _____ people _____ to act, but _____ people _____ to act.

* They are like _____, who well understood God's sovereignty, and so was a man of _____, _____, and _____ (Psalm 18.29-35).