



CAPITOL COMMISSION

Worried, Who Me?

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The tornado which devastated Joplin is a horrible thing. Few of you know, but on the Saturday night before the Joplin tornado, another twister wiped out 65-70% of a little town in Kansas which had our address for 6 years--Reading, KS. These types of disasters are not new and have been going on since sin entered the garden of Eden.

Many will begin to speculate why God allowed these tornadoes to hit Reading and Joplin. And many stupid things will be said; most of which will resemble the 'wisdom' of Job's friends who thought they knew what God was doing with Job.

The truth is that we really do not know and should not speculate. It is not our duty to figure out why this happened. It is ours to trust God even though we do not see His full plan.

The following is a revamped study that I taught in 2008 while with Capitol Ministries shortly before the November election of that year. While it addresses the unknown future outcome of those elections, the principles also apply when looking at events that happen in our lives.

I pray that the truths presented here about our great and glorious God will be a source of comfort and hope in spite of the disasters which have affected each one--whether it was the tornadoes or something else in your life.

Friend, the point of this study today is to inform you that there is no place in the believer's life for worry over who wins next week. I am, in no way, advocating a "fatalistic determinism;" that is, an "I can't do anything about it so who cares" attitude of giving up and not doing anything. I am, in no way, throwing out a flippant answer in case things do not go the way I want them to go. What I am teaching from God's Word is that believers can truly proceed in peace and confidence regardless of what happens because of the nature of the one we call "Father."

INTRODUCTION

Habakkuk 3:17-18 *Though the fig tree should not blossom, And there be no fruit on the vines, Though the yield of the olive should fail, And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold, And there be no cattle in the stalls, Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.*

The confidence Habakkuk the prophet is proclaiming in the above passage is amazing. In spite of the dire circumstances, Habakkuk will still praise and trust God. He is not a Stoic in that he just needs to do his duty and endure the pain and suffering with self-mastery over his emotions while flowing along with the determined force that moves everything along. Instead, Habakkuk knows that God is the One who directs all and will be his source of support (Hab. 3:19), and thus, there is no need to be worried and fearful.

There are three attributes of God that give the believer the same assurance in the midst of worrisome times. These characteristics are foundation stones upon which a solid base of trust and faith can be built.

I. TRUST IN THE SOVEREIGN GOD

The first attribute of God that gives His people much confidence is the truth that He is sovereign. In defining God's sovereignty, A.W. Tozer writes, "God's sovereignty is the attribute by which He rules His entire creation, and to be sovereign God must be all-knowing, all-powerful, and absolutely free."¹ And A.W. Pink notes, that God is "Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him."²

EVEN WHEN EVENTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT LOOK GOOD AT THE MOMENT, GOD'S GOODNESS IS AN ANCHOR WHICH STEADIES THE SOUL.

The songwriters in Scripture penned "...our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases" (Psa. 115:3) and "For I know that the LORD

CAPITOL COMMISSION BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS & STAFF: TUESDAYS @ 7AM, HEARING ROOM #5

LEGISLATORS: TUESDAYS @ 8:30PM, ROOM #134

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is great, And that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps” (Psa. 135:5-6).

So what is meant when the Bible teaches that God is sovereign? Basically, two things:

#1 God is the King of the Universe. He is truly in control of everything. NOTHING happens outside of His reign and control. This includes all things in the past, all things happening now, all things that will happen in the future. And there is no one above Him to whom He is accountable; no one to whom He must explain His actions.

#2 He does whatever He wants. Anything that God decrees He can accomplish (Isa. 46:10-11). The other side of that coin is true as well—anything that may happen is, in some way, decreed by God.

This includes the selection of those who are in governmental leadership over others. As was stated in last week’s study, this truth is observed throughout the Old Testament:

- Judges 3:9—God raised up the judges to deliver Israel
- 1 Samuel 9-10—God chose Saul to be king of Israel
- 1 Samuel 16—God chose David to be the next king
- 2 Kings 9:3—God anointed Jehu as the next king of Israel
- Hab. 1:6—God said "I am raising up the Chaldeans" to punish Judah
- Daniel 1:1-2—God gave Judah over to Nebuchadnezzar
- Ezra 1:1-2—God stirred up the heart of King Cyrus and Cyrus stated "All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given to me."

And in the New Testament:

- John 19:10-11—Jesus told Pilate that he would no authority unless it was given to him from above
- Romans 13:1-2—All authorities on earth have been established by God.

Friend, no one is going to sneak by God and get into office without God’s knowledge and consent. The next president, governor, senator, congressman, legislator, attorney general, county assessor and administrator will ultimately be chosen by God.³ This truth is a great source of comfort for the believer when it is combined with the next attribute that God is good.

II. TRUST IN THE GOOD GOD

1 Chronicles 16:34 O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Psalm 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Nahum 1:7 The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

Each one of these attributes is worthy of a full study. But in this short discussion, understand that God’s goodness is seen in His disposition toward mankind. His goodness is seen in His creation and His sustaining work of creation. It is seen in the pleasures that He gives to all men—regardless of their lack of worthiness. It is noticeable in His patience toward mankind; the fact that people live another day in spite of their rebellion shows His mercy and goodness toward them. His goodness is seen in the grace He has shown to sinners (Rom. 5:8).

The goodness of God is particularly visible in our study of the book of Mark this past interim session. Jesus, the Son of God, has portrayed for mankind what His Father is like. He has shown His power over the demonic world, over nature, over sickness and disease. And Jesus has shown God’s goodness in touching and healing the leper (Mk. 1:40-45), granting forgiveness and healing a crippled man (Mk. 2:1-12), calling the outcast and rejected in Israel (Mk. 2:13-17), and even showing sympathy toward those who plotted against Him (Mk. 3:5). Much more of God’s goodness is seen throughout the rest of Mark’s gospel; including, the voluntary laying down of His life as a ransom for those who were lost (Mk. 10:45).

One can never question the goodness of God, friend. Even when events and circumstances do not look good at the moment, God’s goodness is an anchor which steadies the soul (Rom. 8:28). Do not think that you know what is good and best in the situation for you cannot see the whole picture. Rather trust in the One who does see the end from the beginning; He knows what is truly best for all involved and will do it. This leads to our third truth of comfort and confidence: the wisdom of God.

III. TRUST IN THE WISE GOD

Psalm 147:5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.

Isaiah 40:13-14 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of

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justice and taught Him knowledge, And informed Him of the way of understanding?

Romans 16:27 ...to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

Even though a handful of scholars believe that God does not know everything, the Bible is abundantly clear in exhibiting God's infinite knowledge and wisdom. He knows all things—past, present, and future. He knows the thoughts and intents of a person's mind and heart. He knows all possibilities and all scenarios, and He knows all things perfectly. There is nothing He had to learn and nothing that He still needs to study. It is absurd to picture God sitting in a classroom learning something new from a professor.

Since God knows all things, He truly knows what best for all in every situation. He also knows best how to make all things work for good for His people. Again, Tozer writes, "All God's acts are done in perfect wisdom, first for His own glory, and then for the highest good of the greatest number for the longest time. All His acts are as pure as they are wise, and as good as they are wise and pure. Not only could His acts not be better done: a better way to do them could not be imagined."⁴

CONCLUSION

Friend, this is just a taste of the smorgasbord that could have been written concerning these great attributes of God which bring great comfort and stability to His people when the times are uncomfortable and unstable. But I pray that this small taste will give you a greater appetite to have a fuller understanding and knowledge of our God.⁵

Now think about this: Compare these characteristics of God to this year's political candidates. It does not matter what political party they have attached themselves to nor does it matter to what party you belong, just think about these questions for any of them:

--Are they able to do everything or anything they have promised?

--If so, are they trustworthy in that you believe they will do it?

--If so, do they have the wisdom to know what is actually good for you and everyone else?

Even the man who may have the most power cannot do everything he sets out to do. And the man with the greatest heart of compassion still misses when it comes to helping everyone. And the man with the wisest of minds cannot know what is always best for himself, let alone a whole

nation. The greatest of men are very much lacking when compared with a sovereign, good, all-wise God. This is why the psalmist writes:

Do not trust in princes, In mortal man, in whom there is no salvation.
His spirit departs, he returns to the earth;
In that very day his thoughts perish.
How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
Whose hope is in the LORD his God
Psalm 146:3-5

When you are apprehensive about the future and when those things that you see do not seem to be good, remember there is no room for worry for the followers of Jesus Christ. We may not like the direction our government or society is going, and there may be some things we can do to change directions, but there is no place for being anxious about the future. It is all in the hands of a sovereign, good, all-wise God. So be at peace, regardless of what the future may hold.

**"With the goodness of God to desire our highest welfare,
the wisdom of God to plan it, and the power of God to achieve it,
what do we lack?"⁶**

Friend, you will not find righteousness or salvation in any type of man-made discipline, religion or dedication. You cannot make yourself right before God. BUT, through Christ, God can truly forgive all your sins--are you interested?

¹ A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1961), 108.

² A.W. Pink, *The Attributes of God* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1975), 54.

³ Now this does not erase the importance of a believer in the election process. The Christian person should vote. If one desires, he or she should run for office, or support a candidate of their choosing, or put up a sign in their yard. Ultimately though, the winner is not determined by the amount of money raised and spent or work put into the campaign, but by the sovereign choice of God. As stated in last week's study, we are to carry out our duty, but leave the results in God's hands for He is the one who is good and wise. He knows what is best for His people and will perform it.

⁴ Tozer, 60.

⁵ Recommended Reading (in order for beginners to more experienced):

A.W. Tozer *The Attributes of God*

J.I. Packer *Knowing God*

John MacArthur *God: Coming Face to Face with His Majesty*

Tony Evans *Our God is Awesome*

A.W. Tozer *The Knowledge of the Holy*

A.W. Pink *The Attributes of God*

R.C. Sproul *The Character of God* (aka. *One Holy Passion*)

R.C. Sproul *The Holiness of God*

John S. Feinberg *No One Like Him*

John M. Frame *The Doctrine of God*

Stephen Charnock *The Existence and Attributes of God*

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⁶ Tozer, 64.