

"THE BENEFITS OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY"

(Romans 11:30-36)

(Chuck Swindoll)

Let's just admit it; God doesn't do things the way we think they should be done. He lets tragic events occur, He allows difficult circumstances to go on too long, He often lets us suffer the consequences of our foolish decisions, and He frequently allows our good deeds to go unnoticed. We have too many troubles and not enough money. And let's not even get into the issue of timing.

Some of my most anguished hours in prayer have been spent trying to convince the Lord to do things my way. As my spiritual maturity grew, however, I learned to accept God's sovereignty and eventually to rest in His sovereign will. Here are three simple reasons we should always surrender to the Lord's way.

First, *God's sovereignty relieves us from anxiety*. By knowing that He is sovereign, we can relax.

I have boarded airplanes with people who worry themselves sick over whether we're going to take off, avoid turbulence, and land safely. They worry about making connections or landing on time. Will snacks be served? Will my luggage be there when I arrive? Is the weather going to cooperate? How bad is the traffic? Will the hotel hold my room?

After all that handwringing, I just want to scream, "Relax! God is sovereign. You're not able to control any of those issues, so relax!" (I don't. But I want to!)

Second, *God's sovereignty relieves us from explanation*. We don't need to know all the reasons why. The Lord has all knowledge and all power, and He will always do what is right.

I don't know why the little boy several doors from our home suffered a head-on collision that permanently damaged his brain. This bright, gifted young man hasn't the mental capacity to finish school and must depend upon others for the rest of his life. Why would God allow that to happen? I don't know. I have no explanations. I affirm, however, that God is good and that He will use this tragedy for the good of that young man and his family.

Third, *God's sovereignty keeps us from pride*. The Lord's blessings come to us because He is good, not because we merit rewards. Oh the contrary, we deserve judgment for our sins. When we accept these truths, there's no room for conceit when we count our blessings—our relative wealth, our possessions, our comfortable living arrangements—and then regard the poverty of others. In fact, a strong view of God's sovereignty should make us generous.

