

## **The Certainty of God In An Uncertain World**

*God is Sovereign Over People*

Ephesians 1:3-14

God is using His sovereign control in your life to preserve Himself as your greatest treasure so that you can be blessed beyond measure. The sovereignty of God is not something that should strike fear in the heart of the Christian. When properly understood, it is a cause for celebration.

A working definition of the sovereignty of God is that He is in charge. God has both the power and the position to do what He pleases, when He pleases, with whom He pleases. God is the boss of the world, the nations, of all people.

In Ephesians chapter one, Paul writes a “eulogy” for God. The word for bless or praise in Eph 1:3 is the word from which we get our word eulogy. This word means “to speak well of”. Paul opens his letter to the Church at Ephesus by speaking well of God.

In this section Paul has one item on his list of *Things About God That Are Praiseworthy*. One item. Paul does not praise God for any one of His attributes. Paul does not praise God for His work of creating or sustaining the universe. Paul does not praise God for changing his life or answering his prayers or giving him ministry experiences. Paul has one item for which to praise God: **The salvation of sinners.**

When you eulogize someone or speak well of them at a memorial service, you might recite their accomplishments. You don’t speak of what other people did in some other part of the world. You speak of the person who is being remembered and their accomplishments. Paul speaks of God in Eph 1 and makes it clear that the salvation of sinners is the work of God.

Notice in his praise of God for the salvation of sinners, Paul describes the work of the Trinity.

God the Father crafted the plan of salvation: Eph 1:3-6

God the Son secured the offer of salvation: Eph 1:7-12

God the Spirit protects our salvation: Eph 1:13-14

Key phrases in this section:

Eph 1:4 God chose you. Salvation begins with God

Eph 1:4 God chose you before the foundation of the world. Salvation is not based on our merit.

Eph 1:4-5 God chose you because He loves you.

Eph 1:5 God adopted you. The purpose of the choice was adoption.

Eph 1:11 God works out everything according to His will. Your safety net is the sovereignty of God.

Eph 1:13 God protects your salvation by sealing you with His Holy Spirit.

*Your salvation is as certain as God is strong.*

God loves you so much that He put His sovereign control into action so that He could adopt you into His family. This goes way, way beyond throwing out the lifeline and rescuing a person from doom. This reveals the ultimate goal behind the sovereign choice. Motivated by love, God wanted you to be a member of His family forever, without end.

You are blessed when you submit to the sovereignty of God. You can never experience the love of God on your terms. You can only experience the love of God on His terms. God is sovereign. You experience His love when you surrender to Him.

**Home Group Discussion Questions:**

1. How does this passage help you understand the sovereignty of God?
2. Of the three aspects of God's sovereignty discussed in this series – God is sovereign over the world, nation and people, which of these brings you the most comfort? The most challenge?
3. Why did you think Pastor Karl suggested the sovereignty of God is a “pride-crushing” doctrine?
4. Do you ever step out of your comfort zone and allow your faith to be stretched? Does it help to think in terms of God's sovereignty being your safety net? (This was Pastor Karl's comment on Eph 1:11)
5. Are you sure of your salvation? Why or why not?
6. Do you still marvel at your own salvation?