

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

### LESSON 7: GLORIFYING AND ENJOYING THE GOD WHO IS SOVEREIGN (PART 1)

#### Intro:

“As an infinitely intelligent Creator and providential Ruler, God must have had a definite purpose with reference to the being and destination of all that he has created, comprehending in one all-perfect system his chief end therein, and all subordinate ends and means in reference to that chief end.” **A.A. Hodge**<sup>46</sup>

“An intelligent being is one who knows and judges, who purposes ends and devises means, who acts from design, conceives a plan, and then proceeds to execute it.” **Robert Shaw**<sup>47</sup>

BIG IDEA: Our Triune God is in \_\_\_\_\_ over all things, big & small.

#### WSC 7: What are the decrees of God?

**Answer:** The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

#### WLC 12: What are the decrees of God?

A. God’s decrees are the wise, free, and holy acts of the counsel of his will, whereby, from all eternity, he has, for his own glory, unchangeably foreordained whatsoever comes to pass in time, especially concerning angels and men.

#### Frame’s Lordship Attributes:<sup>48</sup>

God’s \_\_\_\_\_ is YHWH, LORD, as \_\_\_\_\_ by Him to Moses at the burning bush.

**Control-** God is omnipotent, \_\_\_\_\_ to do all He \_\_\_\_\_ to do.

**Authority-** God has the “\_\_\_\_\_ to tell his creatures what they must do.”<sup>49</sup>

**Presence-** God is \_\_\_\_\_ to His people and is \_\_\_\_\_ them at all times.

#### Sovereign Over All Things

1. God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass: yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.

- God makes His plans in \_\_\_\_\_, or before the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world (Eph. 1).
- “*most wise and holy counsel*”: remember His righteousness, goodness, \_\_\_\_\_, justice.

<sup>46</sup> Hodge, pp. 64.

<sup>47</sup> Shaw, pp. 43.

<sup>48</sup> Frame, John, *The Doctrine of God*. Phillipsburg, P&R Publishing. 2002, pp. 21-102.

<sup>49</sup> Frame, John, *Salvation Belongs to the Lord*. Phillipsburg, P&R Publishing, 2006, pp. 11.

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- God's will is perfectly \_\_\_\_\_; no one & nothing external to Himself \_\_\_\_\_ Him to choose one course over another.
- We must make a distinction between \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.
- He works positively to \_\_\_\_\_ some things happen.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ permits other things to happen.
- Why does this distinction matter? "*Neither is God the author of sin.*"
- God does not make people sin; permits people to sin according to their \_\_\_\_\_.
- God chooses to \_\_\_\_\_ restraining grace at times for His wise & holy purposes.
- Another important \_\_\_\_\_: "*nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures*".
- We freely \_\_\_\_\_ what He has \_\_\_\_\_.
- God does not act directly in most cases, but utilizes \_\_\_\_\_ causes.

"The problem of the permission of sin is to us insoluble, because unexplained. The fact is certain, the reason beyond discovery." **A.A. Hodge**<sup>50</sup>

"The decree of God is either effective or permissive. His effective decree respects all the good that comes to pass; his permissive decree respects the evil that is in sinful actions." **Robert Shaw**<sup>51</sup>

"But I cannot even sin apart from the permissive will of a sovereign God. He is not forcing me to sin and then holding me accountable for what I was forced to do." **R.C. Sproul**<sup>52</sup>

<sup>33</sup>The lot is cast into the lap,  
but its every decision is from the LORD. **Proverbs 16**

<sup>21</sup>Many are the plans in the mind of a man,  
but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand. **Proverbs 19**

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD;  
he turns it wherever he will. **Proverbs 21**

- We see a variety of issues here in Proverbs: casting lots, plans, the \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's will and purpose \_\_\_\_\_ in all of these instances.

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD of hosts has purposed,  
and who will annul it?  
His hand is stretched out,  
and who will turn it back? **Isaiah 14**

<sup>4</sup>Who has performed and done this,  
calling the generations from the beginning?

<sup>50</sup> Hodge, pp. 68.

<sup>51</sup> Shaw, pp. 46.

<sup>52</sup> Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 78.

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I, the LORD, the first,  
and with the last; I am he. **Isaiah 41**

<sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness,  
I make well-being and create calamity,  
I am the LORD, who does all these things. **Isaiah 45**

- God declares that no one has the authority or the power to \_\_\_\_\_ His plan.
- God takes \_\_\_\_\_ for all that has happened in history.
- We don't believe in \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. **Matthew 10**

- This is called \_\_\_\_\_ providence.

<sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. **Genesis 50**

<sup>28</sup>And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **Romans 8**

- The doctrine of concurrence: God & people \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ actions.
- God's \_\_\_\_\_ for all He chooses are good.
- Actions are \_\_\_\_\_. God can even bring \_\_\_\_\_ things from very \_\_\_\_\_ things.
- He promises to work all things together for God for His people.

“If God is not sovereign over the details, he cannot guarantee his promise to work all things together for good, because one thing keeps lurking in the background: the maverick molecule.”  
**R.C. Sproul**<sup>53</sup>

2. Although God knows whatsoever may or can come to pass upon all supposed conditions, yet has he not decreed anything because he foresaw it as future, or as that which would come to pass upon such conditions.

- The divines now bring in God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- God knows all possible \_\_\_\_\_ and combinations of \_\_\_\_\_.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ what actually will happen because He \_\_\_\_\_ that it will happen.
- **Socinianism** (open theism): God can't know our free \_\_\_\_\_ until they happen.

<sup>53</sup> Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 79.

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- **Arminianism:** God \_\_\_\_\_ our free choices and then \_\_\_\_\_ them.

<sup>6</sup>Whatever the LORD pleases, he does,  
in heaven and on earth,  
in the seas and all deeps. **Psalm 135**

How does knowing & believing God is in control of all the circumstances of your life help you to glorify & enjoy Him?

“Just because you can’t see or imagine a good reason why God might allow something to happen doesn’t mean there can’t be one.” **Tim Keller**