

God's Sovereignty and Christians Responsibility.

Ezekiel 36:16 – 38

This world, that is the Christian world, has extremes on both sides of just about everything biblical. We see some Christians that totally ignore God's Sovereignty and some Christians that takes God's Sovereignty so extreme that they totally ignore our responsibility. Christians were saved as servants of God and servants for God. God has a work that He does, and God has given us (His Children) a work to do. Jesus said in the great commission to the churches in **Matthew 28:18 - 20** "*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*" Jesus gave an order or command to His churches to take the gospel to the world, baptize those that He saves. Then His command goes on to teaching them "*to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...*" God has the work of saving, and we have the work of baptizing and teaching. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth this truth, **1 Corinthians 3:5 - 9** "*Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? (6) I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. (7) So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. (8) Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. (9) For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*" Again, we see a union between God, Christians, and churches. Therefore, we must see that God is not just an observer nor is Christians and churches just observers, but there is a union between our Sovereign Lord and His churches. If we violate our responsibility by attempting to do God's part or by not doing our part, then we are violators of the scriptures. Let us remember that God said in 1 Cor. 3: 9 "*For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*" – the word "*husbandry*" means field workers or tillers of the ground. This is our part, our Sovereign God does the rest.

A. God's promise to Israel is God's promise to us Christians.

1. Let us read **Ezekiel 36:6 - 11** - God always rewards our service to Him.

2. Look today at the Nation of Israel, they only survive because of God's grace and blessings.
 3. We are no different, while we are living in the days of apostasy God is still blessing our faithful service to Him.
 4. While the Old Testament was dealing with Israel, it is our textbook in the New Testament. Once Jesus returns, then Israel will once again be used as servants once again.
 5. The Old and New Testaments are about God's Sovereignty and our working in partnership with God, it not about us or them. God never changes neither does His plan nor promises.
- B. It is when we change that the Truth is lost and bad happens.
1. Let me test our faith, **Matt. 17:20** *"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."* – do we believe God? Do we believe this faith is possible?
 - A. **Albert Barnes** wrote *"The mustard-seed was the smallest of all seeds. It has been supposed by some, therefore, that he meant to say, If you have the smallest or feeblest faith that is genuine, you can do all things. The mustard-seed produced the largest of all herbs. It has been supposed by others, therefore, to mean, If you have increasing, expanding, enlarged faith, growing and strengthening from small beginnings, you can perform the most difficult undertaking"*.
 - B. This is a metaphor, but it shows how strong our faith in God should be, do we truly have faith in God? Do we truly believe God's promises and Sovereignty.
 2. When we lost or our faith weakens, we lose sight of God's Truth. When this happens, we turn from God, and that is where we lose our faith.
 3. We are at fault not God, we turned failed God, He did not fail us. **Deuteronomy 31:6** *"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."*

4. God has not failed Israel, and He will not fail us. God is Sovereign and therefore, He cannot fail. Everything is in His plan, we live, move, and have our being by His blessed Grace.

C. Conclusion

If all is done right, or if we shall fail and weaken in faith, if God shall Sovereignly rule in our hearts or if we shall weaken, the bottom line is “*and they shall know that I am the LORD.*” God will not fail, He shall accomplish His plan and work, even if we fail. But remember this, it is us that failed not God, and we will suffer loss for our failure.