

**STUDY MATERIALS & QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL
REFLECTION & SMALL GROUP or FAMILY DISCUSSIONS**

June 18 thru 24, 2023

—Here are some encouraging Bible references & quotations that relate to our study: (There are benefits in reading passages like this!)

—**from Romans 9: 14–16** What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

—**from Romans 10: 8–13** But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person trusts, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For Scripture says, “Whoever trusts in Him will not be disappointed.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

—“When you go through a trial, the sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which you lay your head.” —**Charles Spurgeon**

—“Most Christians salute the sovereignty of God but believe in the sovereignty of man.” —**R. C. Sproul**

—“Prayer assumes the sovereignty of God. If God is not sovereign, we have no assurance that He is able to answer our prayers. Our prayers would become nothing more than wishes. But while God's sovereignty, along with his wisdom and love, is the foundation of our trust in Him, prayer is the expression of that trust.” —**Jerry Bridges**

—“Some Christians live in such fear, they act as if they believe in the sovereignty of Satan rather than the sovereignty of God.”

—**Steven J Lawson**

—“Although the sovereignty of God is universal and absolute, it is not the sovereignty of blind power. It is coupled with infinite wisdom, holiness and love. And this doctrine, when properly understood, is a most comforting and reassuring one. Who would not prefer to have his affairs in the hands of a God of infinite power, wisdom, holiness and love, rather than to have them left to fate, or chance, or irrevocable natural law, or to short-sighted and perverted self? Those who reject God's sovereignty should consider what alternatives they have left.”

—**Lorraine Boettner**

—“The sovereignty of God is that golden sceptre in his hand by which he will make all bow, either by his word or by his works, by his mercies or by his judgements.” —**Puritan Preacher Thomas Brooks**

—**from Romans 11: 33–36** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

—**from Romans 12: 1–2** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

—“For any person who is faithfully and fervently following Christ, our total trust in the sovereignty of God won't excuse or eliminate any of our personal responsibility. Basically it will equip us to accept our personal accountability to our Heavenly Father because we have acknowledged His absolute authority over our lives!” —**GAD**

—“Salvation is not from sin's penalty only, but from sin. Any omission of the Christian ethic from the Christian Gospel invitation is a serious misrepresentation of the Gospel. Faith alone saves, but it saves from the power and practice of sin as well as from sin's penalty.”

—**Lehman Strauss**

—“When we complain about the weather, we are, in reality, murmuring against God.” —**Arthur W. Pink**

—*“In Romans 10, the Apostle Paul is condemning the wrong way of trying to attain salvation. He is not angry with his Jewish brethren, but with wistful longing and heart-felt yearning he reminds them that he prays for their salvation. He credits them with having a zeal for God, “but not according to knowledge.” When religious zeal is misguided, misdirected, it is a dangerous thing. Now the Jew was desperately in earnest about his religion, but his earnestness was not according to a full and accurate knowledge. Sincerity that is based on a wrong assumption can be dangerous.”* —**Lehman Strauss**

—*“If there is one single reason why good people turn evil, it is because they fail to recognize God’s ownership over their kingdom, their vocation, their resources, their abilities, and above all their lives.”*

—**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—*“If there is one single molecule in this universe running around loose, totally free of God’s sovereignty, then we have no guarantee that a single promise of God will ever be fulfilled.”* —**R.C. Sproul**

—*“No one will ever get to heaven to experience God’s Glory on their own terms. It’s always a matter of submitting to God’s terms!”* —**GAD**

—*“It was better for Adam that his hands were free to take the forbidden fruit, than that he should have been compelled to go about all the days of his life with his hands tied behind his back. Freedom is one of God’s great blessings to man, and sin entered into the world when man abused his privilege of freedom.”* —**Lehman Strauss**

—*““Trying to figure out God is like trying to catch a fish in the Pacific Ocean with an inch of dental floss.”* —**Matt Chandler**

—*“God’s sovereignty does not mean He orchestrates evil, but rather that He can bring beauty and restoration out of the brokenness caused by it!”*

— **Dr. Lucas D. Shallua**

—*“Our generation has witnessed the growing exaltation of man and his intellectual powers to the degree that some men are looked upon as knowing more than God. Let us come back to the Bible and accept the concept of inspiration which is based solely upon the teaching of the Bible. When the Biblical meaning of inspiration is accepted, there can be no mistaken identity.”* —**Lehman Strauss**

—**Here are some questions for personal reflections & discussion.**

—**1**— Are there any specific quotes or scripture passages that you would like to discuss with one another? There are several that might provoke or encourage some very interesting discussion!

—**2**—*In Romans 9–11, the Apostle Paul repeatedly refers to a concern about the spiritual lostness of people who have resisted or rejected the ministry of Jesus the Messiah. That should motivate us to consider the importance of reaching out with God’s message of grace. How much thought or prayer do you give to the horrible situation of lost people? Why is this an urgent matter? What steps could we take to encourage one another to be more intentional about sharing the Gospel? How can we show lost people (in a practical way) that we genuinely care about their spiritual condition, especially when they might not seem to be the concerned about this important reality?*

—**3**— Some people like to argue that if God is absolutely sovereign, then He is responsible for evil. How would you respond to this in both a biblical and understanding manner? What does this suggest about the way many people view God? There are many scholarly authors who argue that if God has the power to save people, but also judges those who fail to trust in Christ, then He isn’t a God of love. How is this idea flawed? Why is it essential for people to understand the need for God’s justice and the impact of our sinfulness in contrast to God’s holiness?

—**4**— *Does God’s love for the world demand that He save everyone? Why/why not? How are God’s grace and love related to one another? What’s the difference between grace and mercy? How would you reconcile God’s desire that all be saved with the fact/reality that some people will face condemnation and not be saved? (Consider 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16–17 & any other related passages to answer.)*

—**5**— Do you find teaching about God’s absolute authority & sovereign rule over His creation to be encouraging or troubling? Why do you feel this way? Discuss: How is the truth that human unbelief & sin cannot thwart God’s plans/purposes a comfort to genuine believers?

—**6**— *Why is a works-oriented approach to salvation offensive to God? What does this say about every other religion?*

—**7**— Why is it essential to keep God’s glory as our main purpose? What happens if we lose sight of this?