

The Other Side of Sovereignty

Intro:

While, Romans 9 reminds us that despite Israel's present unbelief, God is sovereign in salvation...
Romans 10 reminds us that that is only half of the story

Problem:

Acts 2:23; 4:23-29

Simply put, we have a false dichotomy between God's sovereignty and Man's responsibility
The Bible does not

2 Tim 2:10

Are you saved by God's sovereignty, His election and decree or by personal faith?

Yes!

Spurgeon - how do you reconcile divine sovereignty and human responsibility
"don't need to reconcile friends"

God has not only ordained the ends (salvation) but the means to those ends evangelism, prayer, knowledge, belief

Having said that

Paul is not concerned here to explain these seemingly opposite truths (the Bible does that other places) but to hold them in tension.

Using Israel as an example, Paul makes it plain that...

Main Idea:

Even though God is sovereign

You are responsible to know the truth

You are responsible to believe the truth

You are responsible to proclaim the truth

Implication:

No matter what you feel

No matter who you are

No matter who they are

Application:

Sincerely wrong is still wrong - you are responsible to know the truth

Church-going unbelievers are still unbelievers - you are responsible to believe the truth

Heartfelt inaction is still inaction - you are responsible to proclaim the truth

Articles for further study :

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/we-are-all-compatibilists-at-the-cross/>

<https://www.challies.com/articles/gods-sovereignty-human-responsibility-in-evangelism/>

Its a short book well worth the read

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B008I3A6KK/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1

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Text:

God is sovereign but

You are responsible to know the truth

Rom. 9:30 ¶ What shall we say, then? That Gentiles (blind, deaf, dead etc.) who did not pursue **righteousness** have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith;

Rom. 9:31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law.

Rom. 9:32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. **They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,**

Rom. 9:33 as it is written,

*"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."*

Rom. 10:1 ¶ Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.

Rom. 10:2 For I bear them witness that **they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.**

Rom. 10:3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, **and seeking to establish their own,** they did not **submit to God's righteousness.**

rom 1:16-17 (righteousness is a gift period)

1 Pet 2:4-8 (Christ is either the corner stone or ...)

matt 21:33-46 (the crushing stone)

Mk 7:1-13 (in vain...you are responsible to know the truth- not your truth)

Phil 3:1-9 (the truth is not a sensual matter - no matter what you feel)

(Sincerely wrong is still wrong - zeal/sincerity without truth - ignorance on fire)

this is the other side of sovereignty

You are responsible to believe the truth

Rom. 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law (law - no article) for righteousness to **everyone who believes.**

Rom. 10:5 ¶ For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, **that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.**

Rom. 10:6 But the righteousness based on faith says, **"Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'"** (that is, to bring Christ down)

Rom. 10:7 **"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'"** (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

Rom. 10:8 But what does it say? **"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"** (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);

Rom. 10:9 because, **if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

Rom. 10:10 For with the heart one **believes** and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved **(true profession (confession) is the result of possession (belief)- no secret faith).**

Rom. 10:11 For the Scripture says, **"Everyone who believes** in him will not be put to shame (9:33)."

Rom. 10:12 For there is **no distinction between Jew and Greek;** for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.

Rom. 10:13 For **"everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."**

Rom 3:19-20; 7:1-6 (no one can keep the Law)

deut 30:11-14 (His commandments were not the problem their willingness was— you don't need a PHD to understand the gospel)

Mk 10:13-16 (you are responsible to believe the truth - this is the other side of sovereignty)

Matt 27:1-5 (no matter who you are)

(Church-going unbelievers are still unbelievers (beware of knowing without trusting)

Lk 23:39-43 (everyone who believes - its not baptism, altar calls or raising your hand - it is trust)

this is the other side of sovereignty

You are responsible to proclaim the truth

Rom. 10:14 ¶ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? **And how are they to hear without someone preaching?**

Rom. 10:15 **And how are they to preach unless they are sent?** As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Rom. 10:16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"

Rom. 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Rom. 10:18 ¶ But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for

*"Their voice has gone out to all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the world."*

Rom. 10:19 ¶ But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says,

*"I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation;
with a foolish nation I will make you angry."*

Rom. 10:20 ¶ Then Isaiah is so bold as to say,

*"I have been found by those who did not seek me;
I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me."*

Rom. 10:21 ¶ But of Israel he says, **"All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."**

rev 7:9-10 (how did they get there?)

Rom 15:20-21 (paul understood this - so do we...Jordan, Uganda, northern India -matt goes to Mexico, James' evangelism training)

prov 25:14 (don't be fooled by passion without proclamation - cloud without rain)

Jonah - 1:1-3; 3:1-4:11 (you are responsible to proclaim the truth no matter who they are - election is a secret)

2 Cor 4:1-6 (sovereignty is a rebuttal to our pragmatism - no defect in the message - and the antidote to our apathy - we do not lose heart)