

# The Sovereignty of God

## Our Response

### The Sovereign King

God is in heaven and having made the world by His own power out of nothing, and is even now sustaining everything by His powerful Word, God is **THE SOVEREIGN KING** above all earthly and heavenly powers and authorities. As the Scripture says.....

**Psalm 103:19** - 19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens; And **His sovereignty rules over all.** NASB

God possesses **absolute dominion** and authority over all things. So He is said to sit on a *“throne in heaven!”* Just think how ridiculous it would be to say that God created the universe, but He is not in control of what takes place in it. *Well the truth is God not only controls nature and history, but He literally sustains the entire universe by his power, and orders the events of his entire creation to accomplish His own purposes and plans.* Friends, we must understand that what is happening in the world is happening at the express purpose and will of God, who rules the world and all who are in it.

**Psalms 47:7-8** - 7 For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with a skillful psalm. 8 **God reigns over the nations,** God sits on His holy throne. NASB

He is *“the Lord of Heaven and Earth”* (Acts 17:24) and whatsoever happens in the world, happens because God has permitted, indeed He has decreed it to happen (**THE DECREES OF GOD**). Although there is much evil in the world, which God hates, He is allowing these things to achieve His eternal purposes which will, without a doubt, come to pass.

**Psalms 135:5-6** - 5 For I know that **the LORD is great, And that our Lord is above all gods. 6 Whatever the LORD pleases, He does.** In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps. NASB

God not only permits the events of human history, but has ordained them from eternity past (**FOREORDINATION**), and is furthermore *actively involved* in seeing that they all come to pass (**PROVIDENCE**), fulfilling all of His plans and purposes.

**Proverbs 16:4** - 4 **The LORD has made everything for its own purpose,** Even the wicked for the day of evil. NASB

That the divine purpose could meet with frustration is *unthinkable*, for then it could not be the divine purpose! Failure of God’s purpose is failure of His sovereignty. God cannot be God and NOT be Sovereign, for then He would NOT be God. Scripture is very clear about this!

**Ephesians 1:11** - 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined **according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.** NASB

Of course this Sovereignty and Providence of God extends through the entire **Plan of Redemption** to His blessed and Holy Church, the faithful in Christ Jesus. The chosen people of God will go free from the slavery and bondage to sin, and Satan the evil world ruler who has bound them for these many years will be dashed under the feet of His saints, whom He has chosen out of the world, and they will receive their allotted inheritance in the Promised Land, even Heaven itself! There they will united to their husband and King, and lie down in peace and rest forever in the Kingdom of God!

**Romans 16:20** - 20 And **the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.** The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. NASB

**1 Peter 1:3-5** - 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again **to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 **to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,** 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith **for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.** NASB

**Revelation 19:5-9** - "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great." 6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. 7

**"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."** 8 And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 And he said to me, **"Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'"** And he said to me, "These are true words of God." NASB

Now the fact that events are seen to be under the control of God is plainly evident in Scripture. In fact **this is the main theme of the whole Bible!** God is Providentially working His will in all things to accomplish His own purposes for the display of His own Glory, Name and Power! God is bringing His world to an **expected End**, the End which He has purposed from all eternity! At the appointed time, all earthly powers and authorities will be brought into subjection to the Sovereign authority of God, His purposes will be summed up and accomplished, and all will be at rest forever and ever in the Kingdom of God!

**Isaiah 46:9-11** - "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 **Declaring the end from the beginning** And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, **'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'**; 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. **Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.** NASB

## A Worthy Response

How shall we respond to these things we have learned? If God is indeed who He claims to be, The Sovereign Living Lord of Heaven and Earth, then it is only fitting that we respond to His great plans and purposes with a worthy response. That is a response which is proper and altogether worthy of His wonderful Name! Below we have outlined several appropriate responses to this knowledge of God's Sovereignty.

## Godly Fear

Because God is the Creator and Sustainer of all that is, it is appropriate to fear Him for His great Power and Majesty! The Bible plainly declares that God is worthy to be feared!

**Revelation 15:3-4** - Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the nations. 4 **"Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name?** For Thou alone art holy; For all the nations will come and worship before Thee, For Thy righteous acts have been revealed." NASB

Consider the saints of old and when they happened upon a vision of God they were greatly humbled. Upon seeing a vision of God, in reverence and awe Job exclaimed;

**Job 42:5-6** - 5 "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees Thee; 6 **Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes.**" NASB

Or what of Isaiah, when he caught a vision of the thrice Holy God, He recognized his great sins he said;

**Isaiah 6:5** - **"Woe is me, for I am ruined!, Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips;** For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." NASB

Or consider the prophet Daniel, in chapter 8 he sees a vision from God and when it was over he was overcome by it and he said;

**Daniel 8:27** - 27 **Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days.** Then I got up again and carried on the king's business; but I was astounded at the vision, and there was none to explain it. NASB

Or when in chapter 10 he actually see the Lord Himself and tells of that great occasion;

**Daniel 10:7-12** - 7 Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; **nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves.** 8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision; **yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength.** 9 But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, **I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.** 10 **Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.** 11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, **I stood up trembling.** 12 Then he said to me, "Do not be

afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. NASB

Daniel was afraid of God, and rightly so! A mere sight of Him can kill a man! (Exodus 33:20). When the Apostle John had a vision of the glorified Christ in Revelation chapter one, he was terrified and said;

**Revelation 1:17-18** - 17 **And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man.** And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, "**Do not be afraid**; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. NASB

All of these responses to God have this in common, fear! When a man or woman sees themselves in proper relation to God's Holiness, the first and proper response is one of deep respect and reverence, even a trembling fear of the purity and Holiness of God. This is because we are sinners and have greatly offended His purity and power, and were it not for His mercy to us, we would be consumed by the fire of His wrath! Therefore in this reverence we are to be thankful that He has shown us mercy and we are to do it with a life lived in reverence to His purity, showing the genuine nature of our respect for His Holy Word and Power! It is this person in whom God delights!

**Isaiah 66:1-2** - 6:1 Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? 2 "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "**But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.** NASB

**Psalms 34:15-19** - 15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, And **His ears are open to their cry.** 16 The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth. 17 **The righteous cry and the LORD hears,** And delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 **The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, And saves those who are crushed in spirit.** 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous; But the LORD delivers him out of them all. NASB

**Psalms 51:15-17** - 5 O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Thy praise. 16 For Thou dost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; Thou art not pleased with burnt offering. 17 **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.** NASB

## Worship and Adoration

When we speak of worship we speak of ascribing value to something. If someone worships something, they treasure it and adore it and value it to the point of action. When we consider the worship of God, we speak of what is supremely valuable and worthy of our adoration! To say that God is most valuable is an understatement. In fact, God is what brings definition to value. In other words to say that we value God, is to say that we esteem Him, that *we estimate Him to be most worthy* of our adoration, our praise and even our worship. This is obviously because He is the definition of that which is good, honorable and worthy of *high* esteem. As the scripture says,

**Exodus 15:11** - 11 "Who is like Thee among the gods, O LORD? **Who is like Thee, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?** NASB

Therefore we esteem God above everything else because He is so *high* above, or so much more worthy than anything else because *everything else derives its value in relation to God* because He is the standard for what is good or worthy of esteem, in fact He is the creator of everything. Things derive their value based on the purpose for which they were created.

**Revelation 4:11** - 11 "**Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God,** to receive glory and honor and power; **for Thou didst create all things,** and because of Thy will they existed, and were created." NASB

Why is God worthy to receive glory and honor? Because at His will they "*exist and were created.*" Nothing has its existence except at the will of God. Nothing has its being, except by His design and continued Providence. God deemed it fit and good to create the world and mankind upon it, how could we do anything less than pay Him homage as the high and lofty One. Indeed, *anything less than esteeming God above everything else is entirely sinful*, in fact this is the definition of idolatry and a violation of the first commandment;

**Exodus 20:3** - 3 "**You shall have no other gods before Me.** NASB

More than this, sin in actuality is a failure to glorify God or a failure to properly esteem Him. In fact, *the very nature of sin is PRIDE, it is self-exaltation*. It is to say that our will and our desire is of greater value than God's will or God's desire. Rather than esteem Him as Lord and Master (who He truly is), when we sin, we esteem ourselves and our own personal authority as higher than God's. This is the definition of sin, to transgress the law, character and will of God.

**Romans 1:18-22** - 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven **against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even **though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks**; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. NASB

Therefore we see the great importance of valuing God for who He is, and honoring Him and giving Him thanks for the gracious gift of life He has given us. The utmost importance of this issue cannot be stressed enough and it is made crystal clear in the scripture.....

**1 Chronicles 29:11-13** - 11 Thine, O LORD, is **the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty**, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O LORD, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all. 12 Both riches and honor come from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone. **13 Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name.** NASB

So when we speak of "*valuing God*" we ought to be moved to the point of worship! That is to the point of **ascribing** worth and value to God. To open our mouth and proclaim the glory of His greatness and power, and to exalt Him with the words of our mouth and the thoughts and meditations of our hearts! The authority of His *MAJESTY* is the most regal and beautiful, stately and splendid, magnificent grandeur of all. Therefore we should ascribe to Him praise!

**Psalms 96:4-9** - For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. 6 **Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary**. 7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. 8 **Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name**; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. 9 Worship the LORD in holy attire; Tremble before Him, all the earth. NASB

We are to praise Him and give Him thanks! We are to treasure Him and adore for His goodness and power! This is what is appropriate for the creature, to give glory and honor to the Great Creator!

**Psalms 106:1** - **Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good**; For His lovingkindness is everlasting. NASB

**Psalms 33:1** - Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; **Praise is becoming to the upright**. NASB

# The Sovereignty of God

## Our Response - Part 2

### The Sovereign King

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### A Devoted Love

Because God is infinitely valuable and worthy of worship, it is only appropriate then that we should be devoted to Him with an intense commitment of love. That is why of all the things

which God has commanded us to do, He has commanded us to love Him! In fact, when Jesus sums up the commandments, He does it with this great command!

**Matthew 22:36-40** - 36 "Teacher, **which is the great commandment in the Law?**" 37 **And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."** 38 **"This is the great and foremost commandment."** 39 "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." NASB

In other words, says Jesus, this is the meaning and application of the whole Bible for us, to love God! This, says the Lord, is the **"great and foremost commandment."** In other words, this is what is **MOST** important in life, the main thing, the first thing, the great thing, the foremost thing, the thing which is front and above all others. Jesus says **"On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."** The entire Old Testament, all 39 books, all 929 chapters, 23,214 verses, all 590,439 words says Jesus **"depend on these two commandments."**

**Mark 12:33** - 33 and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as himself, **is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.** " NASB

Much more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices, more important than all our religious endeavors, more important than anything else in all the world, is this foremost commandment. What then is this first priority? It is to LOVE GOD. To love God says Jesus, is the reason why we were made. In fact Jesus shows the importance of this in many ways as in Luke 14....

**Luke 14:25-27** - 25 Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 **"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."** 27 "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. NASB

There will be no rivals in God's kingdom for His esteem and devotion. Jesus says unless He is more important than everything you have, including your family and even your own life, you CANNOT be His disciple! This is why the commandment states, you shall love the Lord your God **"with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength"** This means that we are to love God with everything that is within us. It means we are to devote to Him everything we own and every part of our life.

- **with all your heart** - this speaks of our emotions, our inner being is to be wholly devoted to God with strong affection
- **with all your soul** - This means, to love God more than our life, to be willing to give up your life to him, and to devote it all to his service; to live for him, and to be willing to die at his command.
- **with all your mind** - We are to love God with our intellect, with all the powers of our mind, bringing memory, thought, imagination, reason, judgment, and all our mental powers, as willing subjects to bow at God's feet in adoration and love. To love His Word and His gospel more than we do the vain thoughts of our own minds, the entertainment, comedy and communications of the world, and to give of our time unto the meditation and worship of God.
- **with all your strength** - with all the faculties of soul and body. To labor and toil for his glory, and to make that the most important priority in our lives.

Therefore if we value God because He is supremely valuable, then we must love Him with a wholehearted devotion which manifests the true love that we do have for Him. Good Christian, can we look at your life and see the evidence of your love for God? Or is something in your life competing with Him for your love and devotion? Only when we come to love God with our whole being will we be truly satisfied. Only then will we be content and fulfilled! This is the purpose for which we were made.

**Deuteronomy 10:12-14** - 12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but **to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the LORD'S commandments** and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? NASB

### **A Commitment to Obedience**

Now consider with me if God is the Sovereign, the Supreme Authority, if He is the Lord of Heaven and Earth, and He has given us high and holy commandments, our response should then be one of unwavering obedience. If a powerful earthly authority gives us a directive, what would we do? We would obey. How much more should we honor God with obedience to Him? Shall we rail against our maker? Shall we rebel against the King of Kings? God forbid! Listen to the word of the Lord.....

**Deuteronomy 4:39** - 39 Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, **that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.** NASB

We are to obey God no matter what as He is the One to whom we will all give an account of our deeds. Even in times of testing when all the world is against us, we should obey God, no matter the cost. This was the response of the Apostles before the Sanhedrin...

**Acts 5:27-30** - 27 And when they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. And the high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "**We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name,** and behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." 29 But Peter and the apostles answered and said, "**We must obey God rather than men.**" NASB

This kind of obedience to God flows from a heart of love toward God. We obey Him because we love Him and we know that His commands are what is best for us. This is clear in the teaching of Jesus....

**John 14:15** - 15 "**If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.**" NASB

If we truly love God we will in fact obey Him. This is how we prove our love for God, through our obedience to Him....

**1 John 5:3** - 3 For **this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments;** and His commandments are not burdensome. NASB

Obedience to God is proof positive that we believe He is the Sovereign and that we in fact love Him and honor Him from our hearts!

### **Faith and Trust**

Consider dear Christian.....If God is in control, and He is, and He has our best interest in mind, then our life is in the safest place possible. Listen to the promise of God....

**Romans 8:28** - 28 And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good** to those who love God, **to those who are called according to His purpose.**

Will God actually be faithful to carry out this word? Of course He will, and none of us doubt this. The problem is we have a hard time believing that God could actually love us with a love like this. We realize we are not worthy of His attention and love and so we tend to doubt He will really work everything for our good. But this is in fact the promise of God! It is indeed His expressed intention. Believe dear Christian God has you best in mind, and you can trust Him with everything you are and all that you have! Who could be more worthy of your trust?

**Psalms 43:5** - **Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God,** for I shall again praise Him, The help of my countenance, and my God. NASB

Surely God is worthy of our trust! To whom else shall we go! He is the Sovereign Lord! This is why the Bible calls us to place our trust in Him.....as the Proverbs say....

**Proverbs 3:5-6** - **Trust in the LORD with all your heart,** And do not lean on your own understanding. 6

In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. NASB

How then should we respond to the fact that God is Sovereign in all things and over all things? We should entrust our lives into His hands and wait upon Him! He will not leave us nor forsake us! He will be our God and He will delight in our deliverance and our peace!

**Psalm 37:3-7** - **Trust in the LORD, and do good**; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. 5 **Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.** 6 And He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your judgment as the noonday. 7 **Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret** because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. NASB

**Psalm 33:18-22** - 18 Behold, **the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him**, On those who hope for His lovingkindness, 19 To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine. 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; **He is our help and our shield.** 21 For our heart rejoices in Him, Because we trust in His holy name. 22 Let Thy lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, **According as we have hoped in Thee.** NASB

## Blessed Assurance

Now it is self evident that if God has intended to save us from the beginning, and He has, and that He has now drawn us to Himself and caused us to be born again, surely He will see us through until the end of our life and bring us safely to heaven! Jesus has secured salvation for all who will repent of their sins and obey the gospel by placing their God given faith in Christ! He is the way to Heaven. He is the doorway to God's presence because He is the only One who has fully met the requirements of God's Holy justice. Because He has met these requirements, our salvation has been eternally secured. For the one who is in Christ, no more wrath of God remains for sins because it has all been poured out on Christ!

**Isaiah 53:4-5** - Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But **He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him**, And by His scourging we are healed. NASB

**Romans 8:1-2** - 8:1 There is therefore **now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. NASB

We can have assurance because Christ's work is perfect! Praise God! We have a mediator, a Priest, one who will go between us and God! We have a lamb to sacrifice to cover our sins! Dear friends, if God was willing to sacrifice His own Son for you, won't he be willing to grant you Heaven? Yes He will, and more than that, we have become joint heirs with Christ in His eternal inheritance! All that Christ has is now ours as well. ***This is because the work of Christ in securing our salvation is perfect.*** He is a perfect Priest, the total and complete sacrifice, and His atoning work of propitiation is the full price of all the sins of the world, paid in full. Christ was sent by the Father, to do His will, and to completely provide a way for you and I to be saved. His work is therefore perfectly in accordance with the standard of God. The death of Christ perfectly accomplished the will of God in redemption.

**Ephesians 1:7-9** - 7 **In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of His grace, 8 which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight NASB

**Hebrews 10:14-15** - 14 For **by one offering He has perfected for all time** those who are sanctified. NASB

**Hebrews 10:19-23** - 19 Since therefore, brethren, **we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus**, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 **let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us **hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful**; NASB

**Colossians 1:21-22** - 21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, 22 yet **He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach** NASB

Therefore, knowing these things to be true **we can rest assured** that Heaven has been secured for us, not because of anything that is within us, but because of the great things Christ has done!

## Peace and Rest

Knowing that God is Sovereign affords us great peace!

**Romans 8:31** - 31 What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us?** NASB  
God is in control of nature and History! He is the Lord of time and eternity! He is the All-knowing, All-powerful King of Heaven! What circumstance in our life shall take Him by surprise or prevent Him from blessing His own people with love and security? His eye is on the sparrow, how much more the sons and daughters of His love!

**Romans 8:38-39** - 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, **nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God,** which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. NASB

Now if God has done all of this for us in Christ Jesus our Lord, **we can and should rest in the Lord,** knowing it is His good pleasure to give us eternal life and work all things for our good. And in these promises we can rest and have great peace!

**Psalms 119:165** - 165 **Those who love Thy law have great peace**, And nothing causes them to stumble. NASB

**Isaiah 26:3-4** - 3 **The steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in Thee.** 4 "Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock. NASB

Jesus often says when confronting our fears, **"Do not be afraid,"** and this is often followed by assurances of His presence with us. Indeed we have nothing to fear if we love God, everything will work for our *ultimate good*.

**Luke 12:32** - 32 **"Do not be afraid**, little flock, **for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.** NASB

Remember that God in His Providence is ruling over every detail of your life. He will not allow anything except what He designs for your good and your joy, and His own glory! Therefore good Christian, find your rest in Christ, this is His invitation to you!

**Matthew 11:28-30** - 28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and **I will give you rest.** 29

"Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and **you shall find rest for your souls.** 30 "For My yoke is easy, and My load is light." NASB

## Thanksgiving and Praise

Dear friends, consider in the goodness of God to us, how we ought to be thankful! God has promised that every single thing in our lives will ultimately work for our good. Consider that if God would not spare His own Son, but gave Him for us, won't He then also give us everything we need?

**Romans 8:31-32** - 31 What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us?** 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?** NASB

If God will give His people a Kingdom when they die, will He not also give them daily bread while they live? If Jesus would suffer and die to bring me to Himself, will He not also hear my prayer when I cry to Him for help? Indeed He will, more than that, he will crown us with eternal life and grant us to see His glory forever more in His glorious Heaven, what more could we have from the good hand of Providence! Learn then, that it is fitting for the upright to praise God!

Thanksgiving to God is pure praise! It is direct honor to God who gives us life and breathe!

**Psalms 50:23** - **He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me;** And to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God." NASB

For those who know the goodness of God, we have no other response but the high praises of our King! Thanksgiving is the blood that runs through the veins of a saint! Praise is the garment that fits handsomely on our backs!

**Psalms 145:9-10** - 9 The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works. 10 **All Thy works shall give thanks to Thee, O LORD, And Thy godly ones shall bless Thee.** NASB

Consider that the mouth of the wicked is filled with grumblings and murmuring and complaining! But this is not fitting for a saint! The wicked cannot praise God, neither are they thankful. The poison of asps is on their lips, and with the tongue they profane the name of God!

**Psalm 33:1-5 - Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright.** 2 Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings. 3 Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy. 4 For the word of the LORD is upright; And all His work is done in faithfulness. 5 He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD.

Let us therefore give God the thanksgiving and praise which is due to Him! That no matter what cup He gives us to drink, no matter what bitterness of soul should afflict us, no matter what great trial may befall us or try us, that we shall stand in the company of the saints, with the glorious praise of God in our mouth, knowing that He shall give us nothing but that which works for our good! It is God's will that we should give Him thanks in every circumstance!

**Ephesians 5:20 - 20 always giving thanks for all things** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; NASB

**1 Thessalonians 5:18 - 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you** in Christ Jesus. NASB