

The Supremacy of the Lord God

"Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested" (Revelation 15:3-4). This praise that is proclaimed by the saints in heaven is a praise that all creatures both in heaven and on earth ought to give without reservation or hesitation, especially those who name the name of Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior. And yet, there are some who even name the name of Christ, who may say these words with their lips, but in their hearts they have diminished Him, limiting His power and supremacy in a way that makes God more human than truly Lord of lords and God of gods. Martin Luther, in a letter to Desiderius Erasmus, rebuked him writing, *"Your thoughts of God are too human"* (*"The Attributes of God,"* by Arthur W. Pink).

We live in a nation where many of the churches are apostate, holding to the most dishonoring and degrading conceptions of the rule and reign of Almighty God. God's complaint to an apostate Israel still holds true today when He told them, *"You thought that I was altogether like you"* (Psalm 50:21). There are many people in churches everywhere who imagine that the Most High God is moved by sentiment rather than stimulated by principle. They conjure in their minds that the all-powerful God is an idle fiction, thinking that Satan is hindering God's purpose and design on every side. Not only do they believe that God's plan can be frustrated, they also think that His plans must be like theirs, constantly subject to change. They also limit what power the Almighty possesses; that it must be restricted, thinking that He dare not invade the sacred realm of man's so-called "free will," fearing that man would be reduced to a "machine." They have denigrated the all-efficacious atoning work of Christ on the cross, which actually redeemed everyone for whom it was made, to a mere "remedy," which is only effective for the sin-sick if they want to be redeemed, or worse, "an example" for man to feel good about himself—about his own good works. And most of all, they weaken the invincible and irresistible work of the Holy Spirit to an "offer" of the Gospel which the sinner may accept or reject at his pleasure. The "god" of this century *"no more resembles the Supreme Sovereign of Holy Writ than does the dim flickering of a candle to the glory of the midday sun"* (Pink). Indeed, the "god" of the imagination of many people in churches today is so far from being a fit object of worship that their "god" is worthy of nothing but contempt.

But this is not the God of the Bible. The true and living God is supreme over all His creation, including man and his will. As our Creator, He is pictured in Scripture as the Potter and we are but the clay in His hands to be molded into vessels of honor, or vessels of dishonor to be dashed in pieces (Psalms 2:9; Romans 9:19-24). The true and living God is absolute and universally supreme, *"But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases"* (Psalms 115:3). He does so because, *"There is no wisdom or understanding or counsel against the LORD"* (Proverbs 21:30). With equal weight, we also see in the New Testament that the true and living God is absolutely and universally supreme, *"who works all things according to the counsel of His will"* (Ephesians 1:11). God effectually works all things, because *"... of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen"* (Romans 11:36). And man may say he has a "free will" and is at liberty to do as he pleases, but the Scripture teaches that man is in bondage to sin, and would never choose to "accept" the Gospel offer (Romans 3:9-18; Ephesians 2:1-3), except that the Holy Spirit worked grace in the person's heart making him alive from being dead in his sins and trespasses and gave him the gift of faith (Ephesians 2:4-9). He would not believe and come to Christ with a repentant heart (2 Timothy 2:25-26), because it is God who works in the believer's heart, *"both to will and to do according to His good pleasure"* (Philippians 2:12-13).

Let the reader find in these truths a sure resting place for the heart. *"Our lives are neither the product of blind fate nor the result of capricious chance, but every detail of them was ordained from all eternity, and is now ordered by the living and reigning God"* (Pink). Won't you this day put your rest in Him not only for your salvation, which is by the blood of Christ alone, who has obtained in His one sacrifice the forgiveness of sin, righteousness, salvation, and everlasting life? Won't you this day, in all things whatsoever you do as a believer in Christ, find your assurance, strength, and comfort in Christ Jesus our Lord and say to the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind, *"My times are in Your hand"* (Psalm 31:15); therefore, I will *"Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him"* (Psalm 37:7)?

Rev. Richard Stetler

Pastor, Grace Reformed Church of the Antelope Valley