

SHEPHERD'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday ABF – June 8

“The Knowledge of the Holy”

by A.W. Tozer

CHAPTER 22 & 23 The Sovereignty of God

“My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are One.” (John 10:27-30).

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:35-39).

1) No one can ever build a time machine because it would contradict the attribute of God's absolute sovereignty. **Do you agree or disagree?**

2a) A.W. Tozer writes, “Furthermore, [God's] sovereignty requires that He be absolutely free, which means simply that He must be free to do whatever He wills to do anywhere at any time to carry out His eternal purpose in every single detail without interference. Were He less than free He must be less than sovereign.” **Do you agree with what Tozer is saying here?**

2b) **Can you give Biblical support for the idea that man has freedom of moral choice?**

3) In Chapter 12, *The Omnipotence of God*, Pastor Tozer says that, “Sovereignty and omnipotence must go together.” He goes on to say that, “God possesses what no creature can: an incomprehensible plenitude of power, a potency that is absolute.” Lastly, our author quotes scripture in saying, “Power belongeth unto God.” It is clear from our previous discussion of God’s omnipotence that we have no power of our own, but that all of our strength is derived from the Lord (Acts 17:28). Based on this argument I submit to you that *God alone has true freedom of choice*. **Do you agree or disagree?**

4a) **Did Adam & Eve have the freedom to choose *not to sin* in the Garden of Eden *before the Fall*?**

4b) **Whether or not you believe Adam & Eve had the choice not to sin in the Garden (before the Fall), do you accept the fact that sinful people—on their own without any help from God—will always choose evil (please read Romans 3:10-12)? If this is true, then how is it that people can do good (even Hitler showed kindness to friends and family)?**

5) **Do you agree with what A.W. Tozer writes below?**

“Certain things have been decreed by the free determination of God, and one of these is the law of choice and consequences. God has decreed that all who willingly commit themselves to His Son Jesus Christ in the obedience of faith shall receive eternal life and become sons of God. He has also decreed that all who love darkness and continue in rebellion against the high authority of heaven shall remain in a state of spiritual alienation and suffer eternal death at last.”

“The whole matter of moral choice centers around Jesus Christ. Christ stated it plainly: “He that is not with me is against me,” and “No man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” The gospel message embodies three distinct elements: an announcement, a command, and a call. It announces the good news of redemption accomplished in mercy; it commands all men everywhere to repent and it calls all men to surrender to the terms of grace by believing on Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.”

You did not choose Me, but I chose you... (John 15:16).