

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-  
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** Psalm 96:8-13 “Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. Say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously.’ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the LORD. For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.”

**Quote:** “Our duty is found in the revealed will of God in the Scriptures. Our trust must be in the sovereign will of God as He works in the ordinary circumstances of our daily lives for our good and His glory.” From Jerry Bridges in Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts

**T**he Sovereignty of God is the biblical teaching that all things are under God's rule and control, and that nothing happens without His direction or permission. God works not just some things but all things according to the counsel of His own will. His purposes are all-inclusive and never thwarted; nothing takes Him by surprise. The sovereignty of God is not merely that God has the power and right to govern all things, but that He does so, always and without exception. In other words, God is not merely sovereign (in principle), but sovereign (in practice).<sup>1</sup>

“Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him. So His own Word expressly declares: ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure’. ‘He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” Divine sovereignty means that God is God in fact, as well as in name, that He is on the Throne of the universe, directing all things, working all things ‘after the counsel of His

own will’.<sup>2</sup> God’s sovereignty is not a blind, invincible power. *All that God is in His character guides all that God does in His conduct to bring about His eternal providence.*

David wrote, “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works...” “They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, And talk of Your power, To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the glorious majesty of His kingdom. *Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.*”<sup>3</sup> David prayed, “Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; *Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all.* Both riches and honor come from You, And *You reign over all.* In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all. Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name.”<sup>4</sup>

Jesus said, “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather *fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.* Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”<sup>5</sup>

To have some understanding of Who God is, and that He ordains all that comes to pass, gives Christians a foundation for faith, hope and peace in the midst of their circumstances. It also fosters in them a growing gratitude for God’s grace and mercy in their own lives. The next IMPACT will touch on some of the specific ways God evidences His sovereignty.

## God is Sovereign, Part I

1 Theopedia, An Encyclopedia of Biblical Christianity 2 A.W. Pink; Isaiah 46:10. Daniel 4:35; Ephesians 1:11 3 Psalm 145:3-5, 11-13 4 I Chronicles 29:11-13 5 Matthew 10:28-31