Every Good Gift

A poor man was given a loaf of bread. He thanked the baker, but the baker said, "Don't thank me. Thank the miller who made the flour." So he thanked the miller, but the miller said, "Don't thank me. Thank the farmer who planted the wheat." So he thanked the farmer.

But the farmer said, "Don't thank me. Thank the Lord. He gave the sunshine, rain, and fertility to the soil, and that's why you have bread to eat."

Regardless of how sophisticated, how advanced we may be scientifically, we still can't create; we still can't make a kernel of wheat.

That has to come from God. God gives us the things we need in order to live on this planet.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights…." (James 1:17; Acts 17:24).

- via House to House, Heart to Heart

GOD IS SUPREME!

There is nothing within or without the universe that is superior to Jehovah God in power or authority. This is the reason why the Bible teaches that God has the right to govern the affairs of the universe. As a result, He is known as the Supreme Being! David expressed it most poignantly in I Chron. 29:11-12, "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the 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 is to make great and to give strength to all." Don't you wish that you had the gift of expression as David? He found it easy to exalt his God for He was/is deserving. Though David was king over Israel, he understood where the true power rested.

He is sovereign because He and His word are absolute. He is sovereign because of His divine perfection. Man is subject to error and weakness (finite) but God is perfect in all His ways without limitation (infinite). David recognized that "we are all aliens and pilgrims before you...our days on earth are as a shadow, and without hope" (I Chron. 29:14-15). God is also sovereign because of His creative abilities.

The Maker has the right to control or dispose. God holds the divine patent on every existing thing, including man! David proclaimed "all that is in heaven and earth is yours...you are exalted as head over all...and you reign over all" (I Chron. 29:11-12). God is sovereign because of being the source of all blessings. David said, "For all things come from you, and of your own we have given you" (I Chron. 29:14).

Satan comes under the sovereign control of God. Remember when the devil challenged God for Job's soul? God placed limitations upon the devil preventing him from taking Job's life (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6).

Though God is sovereign, He provides man with power of choice (Jn. 3:16). Man makes sinful decisions at times when exercising this power and suffers consequences for the same (Gen. 3:16-19). God permits us to make our own choices and to experience the results.

We must conclude that the stubborn will of man and the sovereignty of God clash; therefore, we should always yield right-of-way to the Almighty, Sovereign God who is Creator and Sustainer of the entire universe.

Sermon Titles
Sunday Morning: "Ministry Done Jesus' Way" Mark 3:7-12
Sunday Evening: "The Rechabites" Jeremiah 35

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service		PM Service		AM & PM Services	
Song Leader	Michael Hawkins	Song Leader	Clint Smith Jr	Announcements	Joe Sweeney
Opening Prayer	Matt Johnson	Bible Reading	Michael Hawkins	Lord's Supper	Hank Tincher
Scripture	Harold Tincher	Selection	20	Offering	Irvin Williams
Sermon	Eric Welch	Prayer	Hayward Blanton	Usher	Jerry Montgomery
Lord's Supper		Sermon	Eric Welch	Count Offering	Art Patrick
Message	Robby Stocksdale	Closing Prayer	Ethan Welch	Assist Count	Harold Tincher
Attendant	Art Patrick	*If you are unable to serve, please*		**Last Sunday**	
Attendant	Nathaniel Welch	*call Art Patrick 502-819-9481*		Contribution	Attendance
Closing Prayer	Jerry Casey	*or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*		$3,294	73

Perseverance of the Saints

Eric Welch

Of the five tenets of Calvinism, perhaps the one most familiar to us is the last one, the perseverance of the saints, better known as "once saved, always saved." This doctrine teaches that once you become a child of God, no matter what wickedness you do in this life, you can never lose your salvation. The idea is that if God determines every step of salvation that salvation must be perfect and complete for God is perfect. There is no free will. IN Calvinism one can neither accept salvation nor cast it aside.

Calvinists misuse several Scriptures as proof texts for this enticing, yet dangerous doctrine. Those passages include the "full assurance" statements: Colossians 2:2; Hebrew 6:11; 10:2; Romans 8:15-17 with Galatians 4:6. They use texts that underline God's own faithfulness to his promises: John 10:27-19; Philippians 1:6; Romans 11:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; 1 Peter 1:5 and Romans 8:31-39. These passages do indeed teach that God's will and desire is the salvation of his children and that He is able and willing to protect them from outside forces that would lead them away. These passages, however, leave room for the possibility that the disciple, in the exercise of free will, can choose to relinquish his salvation. God never moves first to cut off the relationship. He will never leave us.

Numerous passages and examples teach that one can indeed fall away. One such example is Judas. One of the ways Calvinists use to deny the possibility of falling is by arguing that the person was never saved anyway. They use Judas as an example, but it will never work. Judas Iscariot, Christ's betrayer, died lost. Jesus called him the "son of perdition" (John 17:12). Peter said that he went to "his own place" (Acts 1:25). But was Judas ever saved?

In Acts 1.17, Peter said, "For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." A part of that ministry included the ability to cast out demons in the work among the Jews (Matthew 10). Judas had that ability. If Judas was controlled by Satan, how could he cast out demons? Didn't Jesus say that Satan would not be divided against himself. Judas was saved at the beginning.

I conclude this study of Calvinism with an excerpt from Jack Cottrell, in his book, The Faith Once for All: The assurance taught in Scripture is "…an assurance that is consistent with our continuing to meet the conditions upon which salvation was given to us in the first place. In fact, the overwhelming testimony of the NT is that *staying* saved is just as conditional as *becoming* saved. These are gracious conditions, of course, and not legalistic ones. As Christians we remain justified by faith, not by works of law" (Romans 3:28).

Hamburg Pike Happenings

Volunteers are needed to prepare the communion trays for the month of June. Please sign the sheet if you are willing to help with this.

The Elders have designated Sunday May 31st for a special contribution. This is the second of 4 5th Sundays during 2015 to be designated for a special contribution. The challenge is to double your regular contribution amount.

The Yahoo Group has scheduled a "Bridge Walk" for Thursday May 21st at 11 am. Please meet at the pavilion.

A combined fellowship meal is scheduled for Sunday May 31st after the morning worship. This will be a special celebration of the first year of our new multi-purpose building; additional information to follow.