

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of November 26, 2023 A.D.

God's Sovereignty & God's Love

God is all knowing, all powerful, always present and, at His very essence, God is love. The more time that we spend alone with God, the more we are overwhelmed by the goodness of God and by the power of His love. As we strive to develop a deeper understanding of who God is, we will realize that our personal relationship with God is the only reason for our existence.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Psalm 139:1-12

1. This Psalm was written by King David who lived 1000 years before humanity was enabled to receive the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ. So, what does this Psalm mean for (a) a Christian? and (b) a non-Christian?
2. How do verses 1-6 make you feel? Comforted? Troubled? Ashamed? Some other emotion? No emotion? What is the message which God is giving to us in verses 7-12?

Read Romans 8:31-39

3. Do these verses state that every Christian will experience a life of ease, comfort, and pleasure? Please quote specific language from this passage to support your answer.
4. Paul states that God's love and our faith in Christ will enable every Christian to be more than a conqueror whenever we face the trials and difficulties of life on earth. Please explain how this is true. Also explain how this truth is intended to empower the life of every Christian.

Read Psalm 139:13-16

5. What do these verses reveal about the extent of God's involvement in the life of every person? How often are you aware of God's involvement in your life? How does your knowledge of God's involvement in your life affect the decisions that you make each day?
6. In your opinion, why did God create you and give you life? What is the reasoning or basis upon which you have come to that opinion?

Read John 3:16-18 and John 10:10

7. Except for those Christians who are alive at the time of the rapture, all Christians are going to experience physical death. According to John 3:16-17, is physical death the end of our existence?
8. According to John 10:10, does a person need to wait until after his physical death to have life "to the full"? How would Jesus describe what it means for a person to have life "to the full"?
9. What are some obstacles that might interfere with a person's ability to experience life "to the full"?

Read Psalm 139:17-18; 23-24

10. How is it possible for any person to know the thoughts of God? Are you willing to allow God to (a) search you? (b) know your heart? (c) test your thoughts? (d) identify your offensive nature? (e) lead you in His ways? Does God need your consent or permission to take or to do any of those actions mentioned in (a)-(e)?

Read Proverbs 3:5-6

11. Are the messages of Psalm 139:23-24 and Proverbs 3:5-6 better described as commands or suggestions?
12. Because God is love, we can (can should) trust God and His sovereignty with every detail of our lives and with the details of all of human history. Please express your thoughts about the preceding sentence.

Consider : God is in control of the entire universe. He knows everything - past, present, and future. If you choose to be wise (instead of foolish), you will find that your personal peace and security are found in God and God alone. As a wise person, you will seek (and you will embrace) God, God's love, and God's plans for your life. "You think about that." Amen.