KNOWING GOD

LESSON 10

Title: The Sovereign God

Text: Isaiah 44:1-8

1. **Review**:
   1. To know God is to know His presence.
   2. The omnipresence of God means He is not limited by time and space.
   3. There is no situation, darkness, depth, distance, or deceit that can hide a person from the presence of Almighty God.
   4. God’s presence is constant, near, and concentrated.
2. **Introduction**: This attribute of God is both exciting and difficult.
3. **Sovereignty defined and explained**.
   1. Defined:
      1. Enjoying autonomy, independence, and unqualified power.
      2. It is synonymous with free. There is no sovereignty without freedom.
   2. Sovereignty used in relation to man is a misnomer.
      1. The word sovereign is often used in relation to individual people, to certain institutions or governments, but it can never really be used in an accurate manner in relation to man.
      2. People young and old want freedom. They want to declare themselves “free as a bird.”
   3. How free is a bird?
      1. Birds do not know unlimited freedom.
      2. They are limited by fear, instinct, atmospheric conditions, predator’s food supply and so on.
      3. The walls of this building limit the freedom of birds. Birds are not free to enter here.
   4. Young people admire another young person who leaves home and gains his or her “freedom.” How free are they?
   5. Governments refer to themselves as sovereign powers, but then form international organizations to limit their sovereignty, and limited sovereignty is not really sovereignty at all.
4. **God alone is sovereign**.
   1. “God alone is free to do whatever He wills to do anywhere at any time to carry out His eternal purpose in every single detail without interference.” ––A.W. Tozer
   2. Remember that He wills only that which is consistent with Himself and cannot will anything otherwise.
   3. God is the first, the last, and only God. He answers to no one. He is free––sovereign!
5. **The fact of God’s sovereignty raises questions in the human mind**.
   1. If God is sovereign why is there evil, and suffering, and death?
   2. If God is sovereign how can man have a choice and a free will?
      1. Does man have a choice in life or are all things pre-determined by a sovereign God?
      2. Illustration: Imagine a railroad track on a long stretch of flat land in west Texas. You are standing in the middle between the two tracks and you can see so far that they fade but they never cross. One track is the sovereignty of God and the other track is the free-will of man. They go on together but they never cross. You will never in this life fully reconcile the two, though they are both very real.
6. **God has sovereignly allowed man the freedom to choose**.
   1. God has a sovereign destination that will not be altered, but we make the choices along the way.
   2. Every person will confess Jesus Christ as Lord. That will not be changed. (Philippians 2:9-11)
   3. Every person may choose for himself to accept or reject Jesus Christ.
7. **Conclusion**: