

Lesson 6

Recap

- The two prevailing attitudes toward faith and feeling in the Church
- Revelation 2:1-7- beware the trap the Ephesians fell into
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-7
- Galatians 6:2
- Ephesians 4:11-16, Philippians 4:1-9, Colossians 1:9-11

Sovereignty

- Psalm 103:19
- Colossians 1:16-17
- Proverbs 21:1, Acts 17:26, Isaiah 14:27
- Does the presence of evil or man's ability to choose limit God's sovereignty?
- 1 John 1:5, Isaiah 45:6-7, Joshua 24:15, Acts 13:48
- Romans 8:28, John 6

Sovereignty and Salvation

- Romans 8:29-30
- John 17:11
- Luke 22:57-62

Sovereignty and Suffering

- Suffering is inevitable
- Job 5:7
- We can accept suffering as an idea, but tend to struggle when it touches us
- "God knew it was going to happen" and "God is sovereign" (we may need to go deeper than that when we comfort or exhort)
- We need a God who not only knows, but who is good, who has a plan, and who has the power to carry it out

Eight Ways God Sovereignly Makes Us Useful Through Suffering

- 1) To turn us from sin
 - Hebrews 12:11, Psalm 32:3-5, Hebrews 12:6, Psalm 119:67
- 2) To test and demonstrate our faith
 - 1 Peter 1:6-9
- 3) To expose weaknesses
 - James 1:2-5
- 4) To build godly character
 - John 15:1-3, Romans 5:3, 2 Corinthians 12:7
- 5) To enable us to comfort others who are suffering
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3-5
- 6) To make us more effective in ministry
 - Philippians 1:12-14
- 7) To build our confidence in God
 - 1 Peter 5:6-10
- 8) To display His character
 - Jonah- God's mercy displayed through the suffering of a disobedient prophet
 - Joseph- God's mercy displayed through an obedient man (Genesis 50:19-20)