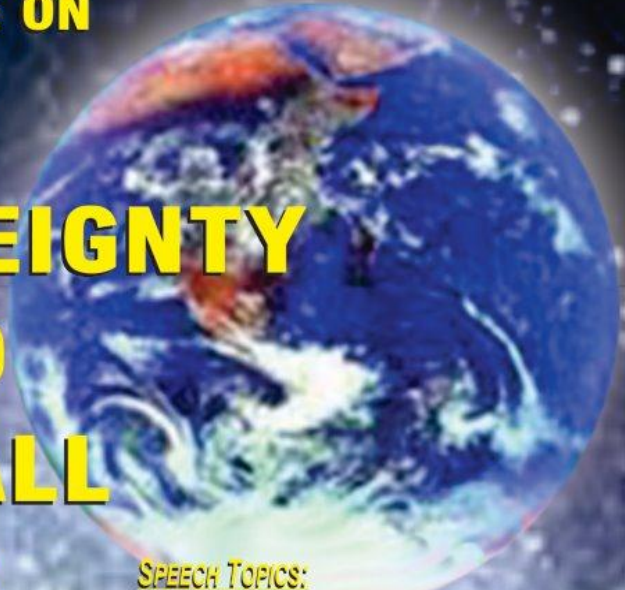


CONFERENCE ON THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD OVER ALL THINGS

**8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
APRIL 26, 2013**

**BANTAYOG MEMORIAL CENTER
QUEZON AVENUE, DILIMAN
QUEZON CITY**



SPEECH TOPICS:

- The Sovereignty of God and the Creation of the Heaven and the Earth
- The Sovereignty of God and the Salvation of the Church
- The Sovereignty of God and the Divine Inspiration of the Scripture
- The Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of Man

SPEAKERS:

REV. RICHARD SMIT **REV. DANIEL KLEYN**
Philippine PRCA Missionary *Philippine PRCA Missionary*

MODERATOR/EMCEE:

REV. VERNON IBE
Pastor, Berean PRCP



**BEREAN
PROTESTANT REFORMED
CHURCH**



P150 registration fee includes free lunch and snacks for the whole-day conference. For reservation and more information, please contact: **Rod Bongat**, Tel. 655-4679 Mobile: 0926-6487217 Email: ckb_ps@yahoo.com

A panoramic view of a city skyline, likely Manila, Philippines, seen from a hillside. The foreground is filled with lush green trees and some residential buildings. The middle ground shows a dense urban area with many small houses and buildings. In the background, a prominent skyline of modern skyscrapers is visible against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. A white rounded rectangle is overlaid on the sky, containing the text "The Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of Man".

“The Sovereignty of God
and
the Responsibility of Man”

“The Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of Man”

SPEECH OUTLINE

- **Introduction**
- **The meaning of “the responsibility of man”**
- **The fundamental basis for the responsibility of man?**
- **Three Biblical examples**
- **Our response to four common objections to this truth?**
- **Conclusion**

“The Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of Man”

Introduction

- This is one of the most controversial topics about the Reformed faith that the enemies of the Reformed faith attack.
- The attack comes often in this question: “If God is sovereign absolutely, then how can man be responsible?”
- The speech will examine what the Word of God teaches about the sovereignty of God and human responsibility.

“The Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of Man”

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“The Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of Man”

What is the meaning of “the responsibility of man”?

1. “Responsibility” has several meanings:
 - a. The ability or position of having control over something.
 - b. The state of being of accountable for something.
 - c. The ability or opportunity to act independently of others and make decisions without influence or determination from others.

2. Which sense do we mean?
 - a. Man does not have the ability to act independently from God in anything.
 - b. “Responsibility” means “accountability.”

“The Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of Man”

What is the meaning of “the responsibility of man”?

3. Some argue that man can only be accountable if God allows man to act independently from God in some things.
 - a. Man can only be accountable if he is also has a free-will.
 - b. God must be viewed as so sovereign that He allows man to have a free and independent will in many things in life.

4. We believe that the Word of God teaches that man does not have an independent will and that he is accountable for all that he does.

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What is the fundamental basis for the responsibility of man?

1. Man was created by God a rational, moral, willing being.
2. Man was created a servant of God.
3. The relationship of man to God is clearly illustrated by Isaiah 45:9, Jeremiah 18:6, and Romans 9:21.
 - a. God is the Sovereign Potter.
 - b. Men are clay pots, created by the Sovereign Potter to serve His purpose, and they are accountable to the Sovereign Potter for what they have done in this life.
4. God made man originally a holy, sinless, and although man changed by the Fall, his relationship to God has not changed.

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**What are 3 Biblical examples
of the sovereignty of God and Human responsibility?**

Example #1: Pharaoh

1. Pharaoh refused to let Israel go when commanded by God through Moses and Aaron.

2. The hardening of Pharaoh’s heart is found 20 times (Exod 4-14)
 - a. Pharaoh hardens his heart (4 references)
 - b. Pharaoh’s heart is hardened (5 references)
 - c. God hardens Pharaoh’s heart (11 references)

3. Was Pharaoh responsible for the hardening of his own heart?

**What are 3 Biblical examples
of the sovereignty of God and Human responsibility?**

Example #1: Pharaoh

4. Pharaoh was responsible for the hardening of his heart.
 - a. This is the Pharaoh whom God sovereignly raised up and used to show His great sovereign power for His glory.
(Romans 9:17)
 - b. Although God ordained and governed the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart, yet God righteously judged Pharaoh with destruction in the way his great pride and rebellion.
 - c. “Scripture teaches that the Lord is absolutely sovereign in the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart. He is first, not Pharaoh.”
(HC Hoeksema, *Unfolding Covenant History*, Vol. 3, p. 264)

**What are 3 Biblical examples
of the sovereignty of God and Human responsibility?**

The Example #2: David

1. David numbered Israel. (II Sam 24:1; I Chron 21:1-2)
2. We learn that God moved David to do it, Satan provoked David to do it, and later it is stated that David committed the sin.
3. Was David responsible for his sin? Was he at fault?
 - a. God moved him sovereignly, but did not commit David's sin.
 - b. Satan tempted David, but David committed the sin.
 - c. David firmly confessed that he was to blame. (I Chron 21:8)
 - d. The sacrifice later also proved that David was responsible.

**What are 3 Biblical examples
of the sovereignty of God and Human responsibility?**

Example #3: The Crucifixion of Christ

1. The crucifixion of Christ was done by wicked men. (Acts 2:23)
 - a. Wicked hands murdered Jesus.
 - b. Yet, this all came to pass according to the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of the sovereign God.
 - c. Were the wicked people responsible?

**What are 3 Biblical examples
of the sovereignty of God and Human responsibility?**

Example #3: The Crucifixion of Christ

2. God’s sovereignty as King demands that man is responsible for the death of His only begotten Son.
 - a. God remains King forever, and man remains His servant.
 - b. Man must give account for what he did with Christ.
 - c. The repentance and baptism of the believers on Pentecost proves that they were and knew they were accountable for their sin.

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“The Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of Man”

What is our response to 4 common objections?

Objection #1

“If God is absolutely sovereign, man may not be held responsible for his sin!”

Answer

1. This objection is summarized by Romans 9:19, “Why doth He yet find fault? For who hath resisted His will?”
2. This objection is answered by the Lord in Romans 9:20-21, “Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, ‘Why hast thou made me thus?’ Hath not the potter power over the clay...?”

“The Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of Man”

What is our response to 4 common objections?

Objection #2

“If God is absolutely sovereign,
then man does not have a free will!”

Answer

1. This is normally the objection from those who believe in the freedom of the human will to varying degrees.
2. Does man have a free will with respect to the sovereign God?
 - a. Fallen man has a will in total bondage to sin, and the saints’ renewed will is under the sovereign rule of grace.
 - b. The will of every man is always subject to the sovereignty of God. Proverbs 21:1, Daniel 4:35

“The Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of Man”

What is our response to 4 common objections?

Objection #3

“If God is so sovereign that He hardened Pharaoh’s heart, then God must be the author of sin!”

Answer

1. God is not the author of sin, yet He determined Pharaoh’s sin.
2. God governs sin always for a good purpose. (Genesis 50:20)
3. Pharaoh’s heart was sinful and hard before God came with His word which hardened the heart of Pharaoh.
4. Pharaoh refused to listen to the good Word of God and the miracles of Moses. He cannot blame God for lack of warning.
5. Pharaoh cannot blame God for his sin and argue that his punishment at the Red Sea and in hell is unjust.

“The Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of Man”

What is our response to 4 common objections?

Objection #4

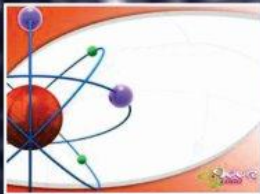
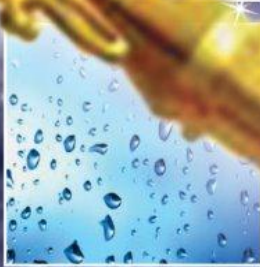
“If God is absolutely sovereign, then man is not responsible for the need to repent and believe!”

Answer

1. This objection declares that the sovereignty of God negates the necessity for repentance, believing, prayer, and all other good works in the life of the child of God.
2. Scripture rejects this objection.
 - a. Man must repent and believe before the command of the King. That call comes with God’s sovereign authority.
 - b. For what man does with the call of the Gospel, he is responsible (accountable) to God.

Conclusion

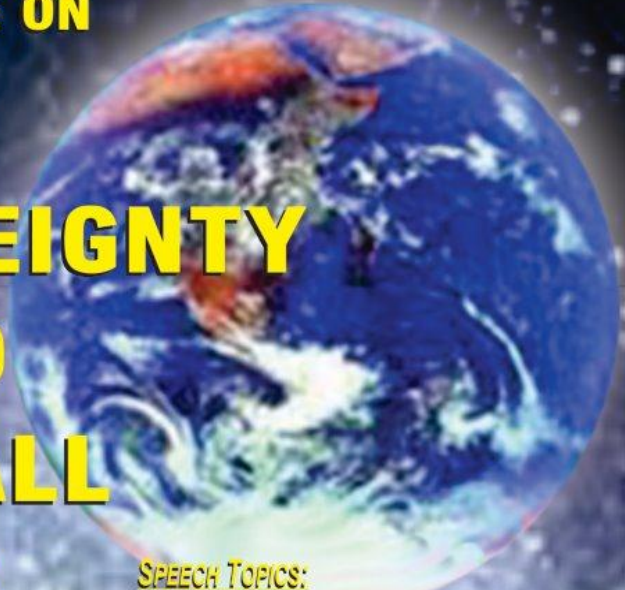
- “Do you take responsibility for your sins? Whether or not you do now, you *will* in the judgment day. God’s sovereignty will not excuse you. Only Christ can save you from the wrath of God.” (R. Hanks, *Doctrine According to Godliness*, p. 37)
- That we are accountable for our sin before God requires that we do the following:
 - Repent of our sin and total depravity daily, and
 - Find by faith all of your salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ alone.



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