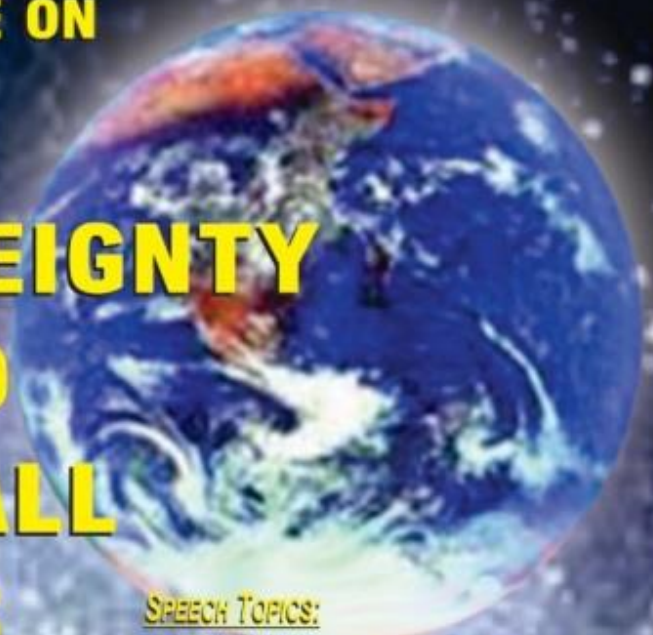




CONFERENCE ON THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD OVER ALL THINGS



**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

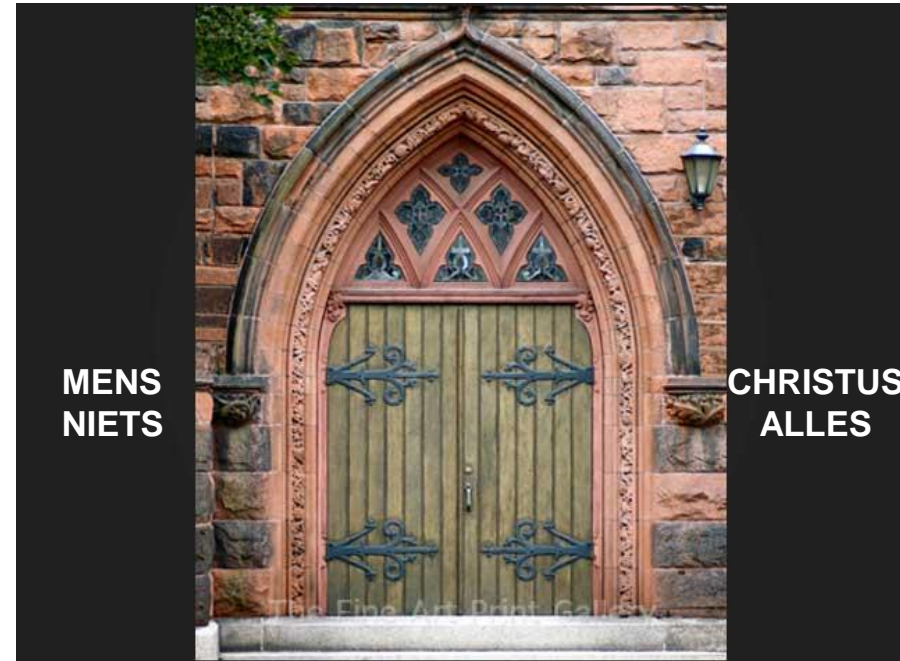
The Sovereignty Of God Over All Things

**THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD AND
THE SALVATION OF THE
CHURCH**

Introduction:



**Reformed "Secessionist" (1834 Afscheiding)
Church in Ulrum, The Netherlands**



**MENS
NIETS**

**CHRISTUS
ALLES**

***"The Calvinist credo is and has always been: To esteem God as everything
and man as nothing" (Dr. A. Kuyper)***

Introduction:

- **PRCA has faced opposition to this truth:**
 1. **1924 error of “common grace” taught the well meant offer of the gospel.**
 2. **1924 error of “common grace” denied the total depravity of man.**
 3. **1953 error of a “conditional covenant” taught salvation depends on man’s faith.**

- **God has used controversy to show us this is a fundamental truth of Scripture and the Reformed faith.**

Introduction:

- **Opposition to this truth today:**
 1. **Tolerance and doctrinal indifference.**
 2. **Widespread apostasy.**

- **Why this truth must be confessed by us:**
 1. **For God's glory.**
 2. **For believer's comfort.**
 3. **Because a foundational truth – all other doctrines flow from it.**

God's Absolute Sovereignty in Salvation

WHO SAVES?

WHO DELIVERS SINNERS FROM HELL?

WHO CHANGES SINNERS INTO SAINTS?

WHO INITIATES THE WORK OF SALVATION?

WHO MAKES SALVATION A REALITY?

Erroneous Views

- **Unbiblical Answers to, “Who saves?”**
 1. **Pagan religions & cults: “Man must save self.”**
 2. **Pelagianism: “Man saves himself by his works.”**
 3. **Semi-Pelagianism: “Man initiates, God assists.”**
 4. **Synergism: “God and man work together.”**
 5. **Arminianism: “Depends on sinner’s free-will.”**

- **Two basic errors:**
 1. **Salvation depends on the WILL of the sinner.**
 2. **Salvation depends on the WORKS of the sinner.**

Error #1: The Sinner's WILL

➤ Jacob Arminius:

- Dutch theologian (1560-1609).
- “Five Points of the Remonstrance.”
- Synod of Dordt (1618-1619).
- Creed: “Canons of Dordrecht.”



➤ Arminianism:

- Unregenerate has a free will to choose, or not choose.
- Can choose to be elected, to believe, be saved, etc.
- He is also able (if wants) to resist the grace of God.
- Preaching begs the sinner to choose/accept Jesus.

Error #1: The Sinner's WILL

Canons of Dordt, Heads III/IV

- Rejection of Errors #3 – those who teach that *“the will in itself has never been corrupted ... [and] that the will of itself is able to will and to choose, or not to will and not to choose, all manner of good which may be presented to it.”*
- Rejection of Errors #8 – those who teach that *“man may yet so resist God and the Holy Spirit when God intends man's regeneration ..., and indeed that man often does so resist that he prevents entirely his regeneration, and that it therefore remains in man's power to be regenerated or not.”*

Error #1: The Sinner's WILL

- **R. Cammenga & R. Hanko in *Saved By Grace* (p. 140) :**
 - **“Almost unlimited power is ascribed to the will of the sinner. Free will is able to accept Jesus Christ offered in the gospel, mighty to open up the heart to a pleading Savior, capable of making a decision for God. Indeed, free will is more powerful than God Himself, for it can resist God and prevent the operations of God’s saving grace.”**
- **H. Hanko in *The Five Points of Calvinism* (p. 89):**
 - **“The Arminian says that grace is not irresistible. He says that God’s grace of salvation is offered to a man. The only access to man’s heart is by means of blandishments and persuasive techniques. God has to be a skilful salesman who overcomes man’s resistance by His selling powers. But as long as the sinner resists, God is helpless.”**

Error #2: Sinner's WORKS

➤ Taught by:

- Roman Catholicism.
- Lutheranism (synergism).
- Federal Vision.



➤ What they teach:

- Man's good works are meritorious and can earn something with God.
- Can earn God's favor. Can earn election. Can earn justification. Can earn heaven. Etc.

Error #2: Sinner's WORKS

Canons of Dordt, Heads III/IV

- Rejection of Errors #4 – those who teach that *“the unregenerate man is not really nor utterly dead in sin, nor destitute of all powers unto spiritual good, but that he can yet hunger and thirst after righteousness and life, and offer the sacrifice of a contrite and broken spirit, which is pleasing to God.”*
- Rejection or Errors #6 – those who teach that *“in the true conversion of man no new qualities, powers, or gifts can be infused by God into the will, and that therefore faith, through which we are first converted ... is an act of man.”*

God's Absolute Sovereignty in Salvation

THE DISTINCTIVE REFORMED VIEW

1. GOD SOVEREIGNLY SAVES
2. SINNER IS TOTALLY DEPRAVED
3. SALVATION IS "APPLIED" TO US
4. SALVATION IS UNCONDITIONAL

Truth #1: Salvation is God's Sovereign Work

- **God Saves Sinners!**
 - It has been said: “Reformed Soteriology is Theology!” (I.e., Reformed Soteriology is not Anthropology!)
 - Sovereignty means God does what He pleases, when He pleases, how He pleases, to whom He pleases.
 - Salvation is God's work alone. From beginning to end (Philippians 1:6). By sovereign, irresistible grace.
- **God's Sovereign Work of Salvation:**
 - Sovereignly elected in eternity.
 - Sovereignly provided the Savior.
 - Sovereignly accomplished salvation.
 - Sovereignly realizes salvation in the sinner.
 - Sovereignly preserves us in our salvation.

Truth #1: Salvation is God's Sovereign Work

➤ Canons of Dordt, Heads III/IV, Article 12:

➤ “And this is the regeneration so highly celebrated in Scripture, and denominated a new creation: a resurrection from the dead, a making alive, which God works in us without our aid. ... it is evidently a supernatural work, most powerful, and at the same time most delightful, astonishing, mysterious, and ineffable; not inferior in efficacy to creation, or the resurrection from the dead.”

➤ Cammenga/Hanko in *Saved By Grace* (p. 13):

➤ “God does not just try to save sinners, all the while depending on their willingness to be saved. He does not attempt to save them but stand helplessly when they do not cooperate with Him by using their free will to be saved. He does not do His best to save sinners, always facing the real possibility that His best is not good enough and that the sinner may effectively resist His efforts to save him. No, God saves sinners, sovereignly, efficaciously, irresistible.”

Truth #1: Salvation is God's Sovereign Work

- **John 6:44** - “No man can come to me except the Father, which hath sent me, draw him: ...”
- **Romans 11:6** - “And if by grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”
- **Romans 8:29-30** - “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”

The Subject of the action of all these verbs is God Himself.

- **Romans 9:16** - “So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.”

THE answer to both errors: re man's will and re man's works.

God's Absolute Sovereignty in Salvation

THE DISTINCTIVE REFORMED VIEW

1. GOD SOVEREIGNLY SAVES
2. SINNER IS TOTALLY DEPRAVED

Truth #2: The Sinner Is Totally Depraved

- **Total Depravity explains why salvation must be the sovereign work of God.**
- **Total Depravity means:**
 - **The sinner does not have a free will, but his will is in bondage/slavery to sin.**
 - **The sinner is incapable of reaching out to God and accepting something from Him.**
 - **More – the sinner cannot desire and does not want salvation. Every sinner prefers to be left in the filth of sin.**

Truth #2: The Sinner Is Totally Depraved

➤ Man's Depravity:

- **Canons III/IV, Art. 3 – “all men are conceived in sin, and by nature children of wrath, incapable of saving good, prone to evil, dead in sin, and in bondage thereto, and without the regenerating grace of the Holy Spirit, they are neither able nor willing to return to God, to reform the depravity of their nature, nor to dispose themselves to reformation.”**

➤ God's Sovereign Salvation:

- **Canons III/IV, Art. 12 – salvation is a “supernatural work, most powerful, ... not inferior in efficacy to creation.”**

God's Absolute Sovereignty in Salvation

THE DISTINCTIVE REFORMED VIEW

1. GOD SOVEREIGNLY SAVES
2. SINNER IS TOTALLY DEPRAVED
3. SALVATION IS "APPLIED" TO US

Truth #3: Salvation is APPLIED to the Sinner

- **Salvation “applied” stands in contrast to the Arminian view that salvation is “accepted.”**
- **Reformed/Biblical teaching:**
 - **Salvation is not offered to the sinner and the sinner decides if he wants it and gets it.**
 - **Salvation is not made available to everyone and they can accept it or reject it.**
 - **Salvation is sovereignly and irresistibly worked by Christ through the Spirit.**

Truth #3: Salvation is APPLIED to the Sinner

- **Objection: Man is saved unconsciously, and/or against his will.**
 - **Caricature of Calvinism: “God saves sinner, but drags them into heaven kicking and screaming.”**
- **But the sinner is not unconscious in salvation.**
 - **Is not a “stock and block.” Is not a lifeless puppet.**
 - **The fruit of God’s sovereign work is a change of man’s will.**
- **Psalm 110:3 – “Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power.”**
- **Philippians 2:13 – “It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”**
- **Canons III/IV, Art. 11: God “pervades the inmost recesses of the man; He opens the closed, and softens the hardened heart, ... infuses new qualities into the will, which though heretofore dead, He quickens; from being evil, disobedient, and refractory, He renders it good, obedient, and pliable; actuates and strengthens it, that like a good tree, it may bring forth the fruits of good actions.”**

God's Absolute Sovereignty in Salvation

THE DISTINCTIVE REFORMED VIEW

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Truth #4: Salvation is UNCONDITIONAL

- **No conditions for election, regeneration, justification, sanctification, etc.**
 - **Ephesians 2:8 – we are saved by grace “through faith” - not “because of” faith.**
 - **Titus 3:5 – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us”**
 - **II Timothy 1:9 – “Who hath saved us, ... not according to our works, ...”**
- **That is why the Reformed view of Salvation has regeneration BEFORE faith in the Ordo Salutis.**
- **Arminianism has faith before regeneration. E.g., *How to be Born Again* by Billy Graham.**

God's Absolute Sovereignty in Salvation

CALVINISM VS ARMINIANISM
A SUMMARY

TULIP or LILAC

Calvinism - TULIP

T = Total Depravity

U = Unconditional Election

L = Limited Atonement

I = Irresistible Grace

P = Preservation of Saints

Arminianism - LILAC

L = Limited Depravity

I = "I Elect God"

L = Limitless Atonement

A = Arrestible Grace

C = Carnal Security

God's Absolute Sovereignty in Salvation

CONCLUSION: THE SIGNIFICANCE

1. FOR OUR COMFORT
2. FOR GOD'S GLORY

THE SIGNIFICANCE

1. Our Comfort

- Because salvation is God's work, it is sure.
- If any of it depended on me, would never happen.

Arminianism results in heaven being forever empty.

2. God's Glory

- Honor God by confessing His great power.
- Honor God by confessing:

**MAN NOTHING
GOD EVERYTHING**

Martin Luther

The Bondage of the Will (p. 384)

- **“I frankly confess that, for myself, even if it could be, I should not want ‘free-will’ to be given me, nor anything to be left in my own hands to enable me to endeavour after salvation; not merely because in face of so many dangers, and adversities and assaults of devils, I could not stand my ground ...; but because even were there no dangers ... I should still be forced to labour with no guarantee of success”**
- **“But now that God has taken my salvation out of the control of my own will, and put it under the control of His, and promised to save me, not according to my working or running, but according to His own grace and mercy, I have the comfortable certainty that He is faithful and will not lie to me, and that He is also great and powerful, so that no devils or opposition can break Him or pluck me from Him.”**
- **“Furthermore, I have the comfortable certainty that I please God, not by reason of the merit of my works, but by reason of His merciful favour promised to me; so that, if I work too little, or badly, He does not impute it to me, but with fatherly compassion pardons me and makes me better.”**
- **“This is the glorying of all the saints in their God.”**