



July 23, 2023

Pastor Note:

God does not answer to you and me, He is the Sovereign over all there is, was, and ever will be, which does mean we will answer to Him according to His standards, His purposes, and His righteousness. Whatever autonomy He has granted us, never places us outside of His eternal authority and rule. The good news is that God stays true to Himself, which means He all does, all He decrees, everything He decides and requires is holy (sinless), righteous, just, good, infinitely wise, and loving.

Our problem is that we often don't see it this way because we are limited in our understanding, our wisdom is at best incomplete, our love is lacking, our goodness has holes, and at our very core, we are anything but righteous, but fallen, sinful, depraved. From that perspective, God's sovereignty is difficult for us, and often looks and feels confusing, even arbitrary. God saved Daniel from the lion's den, but He allowed Stephen to be stoned. He raised Lazarus from the dead, but the others buried in the same cemetery kept rotting in their graves. He made us capable of experiencing a multitude of pleasures but calls us to a life of self-denial. He made us sexual beings while at the same restricting and prohibiting sexual behaviors. He gives us autonomy while at the same time having expectations and leveling demands He will hold us responsible for.

**As they were traveling on the road someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go!"**

**Jesus told him, "Foxes have dens, and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head."**

**Then He said to another, "Follow Me." "Lord," he said, "first let me go bury my father."**

**But He told him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and spread the news of the kingdom of God."**

**Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord, but first let me go and say good-bye to those at my house."**

**But Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:57-62 (HCSB)**

"Jesus, I'll follow you, but ..."

"I'll follow you God, but according to my own comfort level."

"I'll follow you, but according to my schedule."

"I'll follow you, but I won't give up what is important to me."

"I'll follow you, but according to my culture's expectations."

"I'll follow you, but I have other things I want to do first."

"I'll follow you, but I need to make sure 'my people' are okay with it."

"I'll follow you, but some things I won't give up or change my mind on" (Luke 18:18-23)

"Jesus, I'll follow you, as long as I get to live in a conservative/liberal state."

"God, I'll follow you, as long as you affirm my chosen gender, accept my definition of marriage, and don't restrict my sexual behavior."

"Jesus, I'll follow you, as long as you don't interfere with my political views."

"God, I'll follow you, as long as I don't have to change my lifestyle."

"Jesus, I'll follow you, as long as we leave the whole church thing out of it."

"Jesus, I'll follow you, as long as you'll guarantee everything will work out the way I picture it."

The sovereignty of God is demanding, it leaves no room for "but ...". It encompasses all of you and me, everything in our lives, absolutely nothing is left out, not a single "but," "unfair," "too hard," "why me, and not them?"

The sovereignty of God is worthy of our trust, sacrifice, self-denial, and devotion because He not only knows what is best, He does what is best, because **"we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them"** Romans 8:28 (NLT2). The question is whether we will surrender our "but ..."

To God, the eternal King, be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



# Lord Hear Our Prayers

Sermon Notes:

## PRAYER REQUEST

Health: Karen Souza, Mabel Mayes, JoEllen, Watts family,  
Rachel Aratin, July Ebel  
that we do actually SHARE.

## SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Phillip, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray,  
Farney, John Boykin, Peter, Mariah Ellis, Jimmy,  
Shyrlee Stagner, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

## Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing,  
Noah Martin, John Michael Chavez,  
Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker, Brian Sula,  
Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,  
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,  
Christopher Sula

## CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us  
know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862  
and/or an e-mail to: **Judy Mahar** [ldpbcpayer@gmail.com](mailto:ldpbcpayer@gmail.com)

## **Church Board Members:**

Hans Frei - Pastor . Richard Mayes - Head Deacon  
Russ Young . Dan Hankemeier . Sue Kluding .  
Gabi Cox . Chuch Arndt

# July & August Announcements

## Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:00 P.M.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages - 7:00 P.M.
- Food Ministry - 1st Wed. & 3rd Tues. @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 A.M.
- Communion Sunday - July 23rd

**Deacon Board Meeting every 4th Sunday after service**

Fellowship Time Snacks  
were provided  
By - "Han's"

**Thank you**

*Next week Dan's Class is up!!*

## Church Membership Seminar

**When:** August 12th

**Time:** 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM

**SEE THE SIGN UP IN THE FOYER**

A Bit of  
Humor  
Corner

**MONDAY MORNING**



"Suck it up, Tiger, remember your sermon:  
'Face the day with a 'Good morning, Lord!'  
and not 'Good Lord, it's morning!'"

### Giving

*July 16, 2023*

**Offering:**  
\$2,346.60

**Food:**  
\$.00

**Fuge:**  
\$1,410.00

**Facilities:**  
\$.00

**Women's Ministry:**  
\$160.00

**Attendance:**  
90

### Weekly Events

#### Sunday School/Small Groups:

9:00 AM

#### Sunday Morning Worship Service:

10:30 AM

#### Sunday Evening Worship Service:

6:00 PM

**Tuesday:** Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

#### **1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday**

#### **Food Ministry:**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

#### **Wednesday:**

Women's Bible Study - On Hiatus  
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM  
Grief Share - 6:30 PM (On Hiatus)

**Thursday:** Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

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# SHARE



*1 Timothy 6:18*



### **July 24th - July 30th**

DAY 1 - Gal. 3  
(Ps. 119:49-64)

DAY 2 - Gal. 4  
(Ps. 119:65-80)

DAY 3 - Gal. 5  
(119:81-96)

DAY 4 - Gal. 6  
(119:97-112)

DAY 5 - Eph. 1  
(Ps. 119:113-128)

DAY 6 - (Ps. 119:129-144)  
DAY 7 - (Ps. 119:145-160)

Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.