



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

The Biblical imagery of God as the Potter and we as His clay can be theologically affirming, and yet personally unsettling. To be sure, the doctrine of God's sovereignty is both glorious and mysterious. The fact that God possesses ultimate power and authority over all things reveals He is perfectly able to rule and to save, and completely worthy of our trust and worship. It is truly amazing to consider God as sovereign – that “*God is in the heavens*” and “*does whatever He pleases*” (see Ps.115:3, 135:6). Reflecting on God's sovereignty can be encouraging and exhilarating.

But such profound thoughts can raise perplexing questions. In contemplating God's sovereignty people can question His goodness and love (e.g. “Why do bad things happen to good people?”), or our culpability in sin and depravity (e.g. “*Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?*”; Rom.9:19). Anticipating such objections, the apostle answered: “*But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, ‘Why have you made me like this?’ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honored use and another for dishonorable use?*” (Rom.9:20-21). Notice that Paul does not answer the question or settle the objections, but firmly underscores the doctrine of God's sovereignty. Interestingly, we find that Jesus answered similarly when asked about the mystery between human tragedy and God's sovereignty (Lk.13:1-5), as did God when Job and his friends challenged the same issue (Job 38-42).

I believe the reason for non-answers is two-fold. First, as finite and mortal humans, we are unable to grasp the glories and mysteries of God's sovereignty. We simply cannot completely fathom the unfathomable or “unscrew” the inscrutable (see Rom.11:33-36). Therefore, no human explanation would totally suffice. Secondly, God has called us to seek Him and to trust Him. This is to be the basis of our faith. Not that we totally understand God, but that we absolutely trust God.

The amazingly merciful truth is this: God does not use His sovereign authority and power to condemn or destroy those who believe in Him, but to save and sanctify them. For true believers are not “*objects of His wrath*” but “*objects of His mercy*” (Rom.9:22-23). God lovingly shapes them with His hands, graciously refines and strengthens them in the fire, and gloriously burnishes them with beauty. It is only by His sovereign grace that mere lumps of clay become precious objects in the King's mansion – eternally and magnificently displaying the glory of God's pleasure.

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, our continuous prayer is that God would be glorified and pleased with our lives – that He would mold us and make us after His will. May our prayers reflect the words of the hymn, “*Have Thine Own Way, Lord*” (written by Adelaide A. Pollard in 1907):

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! / Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will, / While I am waiting, yielded and still.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! / Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now, / As in Thy presence humbly I bow.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! / Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power, all power, surely is Thine! / Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! / Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit 'till all shall see / Christ only, always, living in me.*

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #17):

Exodus 13-16; 2 Samuel 1-4; Psalm 48-50; Job 33-34; Jeremiah 22-26; Mark 13-14; 2 Corinthians 1-3

Recommended Reading:

“*The Cross-centered Life*” and “*Living the Cross-centered Life*” both by C.J. Mahaney

Calendar of
Events:

Men's Retreat

May 4-6

Memorial Service for
Virginia Zimmerman

May 12, 3:00pm

Youth Garage Sale

May 26

Looking Ahead....

Family Camp

June 28-July 1st

For prayer requests,
email Amy Woodruff
at prayer@sbcnb.org
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!

See us at:

sbcnb.org

Growth & Study.....

Men's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "The Difficult Doctrine of the
Love of God" by D.A. Carson
w/Jeff Etzel

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Jesus Among Secular Gods"
w/Pastor David

8:15-9:30pm "Zechariah"

w/Pastor Josh

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Galatians ~ No Other Gospel"
w/Pastor Tim

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Christian Walk"
w/Pastor David

Adult Group Studies

Sundays ~

6:30-7:30pm "The Lord's Prayer"
At the Woodruff's Home (541-756-3311)

Young Adults

Thursdays ~

7:00-9:00pm At Skyline
w/Pastor Tim 541-756-3311

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "Ephesians, Philippians and
Colossians"
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Not By Sight"
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)

8:30am "Isaiah, the Lord Saves"
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)

9:00am "Live Out His Love"

w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-267-3106)

1:00-2:15pm "Romans"

w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

7:00-8:15pm "Romans"

w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am "Ephesians, Philippians and
Colossians"

w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

10:00am "Experiencing God's Peace"

w/Jeanette Murphy (541-266-7575)

6:30-8:00pm "Ephesians, Philippians and
Colossians"

w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Connect & Encourage.....

Men's Retreat ~ May 4th to 6th

Register now for a great weekend of growth and fellowship at our Men's Retreat from May 4th to 6th. Our speaker is Doug Hazen from WorldVenture. Register online at www.sbcnb.org, or grab a brochure off the News & Events bulletin board in the church foyer.

Memorial Service for Virginia Zimmerman ~ May 12th, 3:00pm

Youth Garage Sale ~ May 26th

We are accepting clean, reusable donation items for our May 26th fundraiser garage sale. Students are raising funds for the Mexico Mission Trip in August.

Children's Ministries.....

Save the date:

June 25 – 28 9am to Noon

Vacation Bible School

Open to children 3 years old (potty-trained) through 5th Grade

July 30 - August 3

Big G Summer Camp

Open to students entering 4th through 9th grade.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Summer Sunday School Teachers and Helpers (this is our greatest area of need)
- 2nd Service Nursery Helpers (once a month)
- 1st & 2nd grade Sunday School Teacher (twice a month during second service)
- Awana helpers (Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8 pm – Summers off)
- Vacation Bible School Pre-School Director and Co-Director and leaders and helpers for other areas of VBS.

See Loy for more information. Training available.



Youth Ministries.....

Youth Group ~

High School youth group ~ Sunday nights 6 to 8pm.

Junior High youth group ~ Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8pm.