

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD



Arthur W. Pink (1886-1952)

Course SOG

(Study Guide)

Name: _____ Student ID: _____ Date: _____

Instructions for this course

The reading material for this course is *The Sovereignty of God* by Arthur W. Pink.

Before each lesson: pray for God to give a teachable heart and understanding.
Begin the lesson by reading the related chapter (or part of a chapter) in the book provided.



Answer the questions for the corresponding lesson in this study guide.

Use the required answer sheet format, putting your name and course information on each sheet (sample after the Table of Contents). Use any standard note paper (or the answer booklets if provided).

Skip a line between answers.

Always use your own words in your answers.

Try to be as clear and concise as possible.

Please do not rush! Meditate on what God wants you to learn.

Don't go to the next question until completing the current one.

If, and only if, you are taking the course as correspondence study (with written feedback from others):

After completing lessons 1 to 7, send the completed answer sheets to your course coordinator. Send again when finished with lessons 8 to 13.

Only mail your answers sheets, not other materials.

All sent answers are handled confidentially.

Label the envelope's lower left with: student ID, course, and lesson numbers.



Continue taking the course until all lessons are completed.

Four months are allotted for course completion. Extensions may be granted upon request.



Your answer sheets are returned to you after review.

Keep all materials and returned answers together for future reference.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

Study Guide, Course SOG

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Sample Answer Sheet

_____	_____	<u>SOG</u>	_____	_____
Your name	Student ID	Course number	Lesson number	Date

Question Answer

skip a line between questions

The Sovereignty of God, by A.W. Pink, was first published in 1919, a second edition in 1921, and this third and final edition in 1929. All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version, except as indicated otherwise.

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THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

Study Guide

Course SOG

This Study Guide is based on the book *The Sovereignty of God* by A. W. Pink.

Please answer the questions from the information given in the book. Each chapter in the book corresponds to a lesson you are doing. For example, the information you need to answer the questions from Lesson One in this study guide is found in chapter one in the book.

Some chapters have multiple parts, each of which is as long as an individual chapter with only one part. Before you begin the questions for a particular part of a chapter (for those chapters with multiple parts), please read that part of the chapter in its entirety for the part of the lesson you are taking.

For those lessons with multiple parts, it is suggested to do only one part at a sitting. Each part stands alone, dealing with a different aspect of the lesson's overall theme. Most parts have 10 to 20 questions; therefore you can think of each part as a lesson in itself.

Please read slowly enough so you understand what you read, and, most importantly, please pray before each lesson, asking the LORD for wisdom to apply what you learn to your life—and to enable you to love Him with all your mind, heart, soul, and strength...for this is the first commandment (Mark 12:30).

Most questions simply ask for your response to the information in the text, and are intended to support a basic understanding of what is presented. *You should always use your own words to describe what the author has said in the text, and not quote from the text itself.*

Some questions are labeled *Making It Personal*. These go much deeper to ask you to think through principles and to search out your own heart for practical application. Please make your best effort to answer these, but please also realize there are no right or wrong answers. We are looking only for your sincere best effort.

Lesson 1 Introduction and Definition

This lesson is longer than some others. We suggest doing parts of it in separate study sessions: the Introduction, and then Chapter 1.

Introduction

Please read the Introduction in the book entirely before answering the following questions.

Very Important Note: We ask you to always use your own words in your answers. The answers to the Response questions are found in the textbook, but please do not merely quote the book for your answer. Rather, read what the text says, think about the meaning of what it says, and summarize its meaning in your own words for your answer. In this way, you will learn much more than simply a “search, find, quote” method for answering the questions.

The great question (A)

1. Trace the steps that have resulted in the Creator being banished from His own creation.
2. If man is a “free agent,” what is the logical consequence for who most believe should rule their lives?
3. Regarding taking personal responsibility for sin, what is the consequence of believing that Satan is a “ruler of this world” who causes all evil?
4. Describe the impression about God that is made upon the minds of men who only occasionally attend a gospel service.
5.
 - a. What is it to walk by sight?
 - b. What is it to walk by faith?

What saith the Scriptures (B)

6. List the only two possible alternatives regarding God’s reign.
7. Contrast the scriptural account of God with the popular one.

Our method (1)

8.
 - a. Describe the two possible approaches to every problem.
 - b. What is the result of starting with God?

Faith required (2)

9. What is required in order to enjoy the truth of the sovereignty of God?
10. Describe each of the following.
 - a. The man of unbelief
 - b. The man of faith

Summary (C)

11. a. What is the first postulate that serves as the basis for this book?
b. *Making It Personal*....Do you agree with it? Why or why not?

Chapter 1: God's Sovereignty Defined

Please read chapter 1 in the book entirely before answering the following questions. Always use your own words in your answers, in order to indicate your understanding of what you have read.

Definition (A)

12. Describe the meaning of "the sovereignty of God."

Difference in modern Christianity (B)

13. Describe the god of the twentieth century.
14. If sin frustrated the original plan of God, what does this say about Him?
15. When we say that God is sovereign, what do we affirm?

Sovereign in whole being (C)

16. a. How is God sovereign in the exercise of His power?
b. Give one biblical example of this.
17. a. How is God sovereign in the exercise of His mercy?
b. Give one biblical example of this.
18. a. How is God sovereign in the exercise of His love?
b. Give one biblical example of this.
c. Write the reference and key point of Ephesians 1:3-5.

Note: By key point we mean: "key"—the phrase in the verse that relates to the topic at hand; "point"—do not merely rewrite the printed words; rather, tell in your own words what the text means, the basic meaning behind the words (i.e., a paraphrase).

19. a. How is God sovereign in the exercise of His grace?
b. Give one biblical example of this.

Lesson 2 The Sovereignty of God in Creation

Please read chapter 2 in the book entirely before answering the questions. Always use your own words in your answers, in order to indicate your understanding of what you have read.

1. What do we learn about God's sovereignty when we consider His solitude before creating this world?
2. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:41
 - b. Revelation 4:11

Remember: By key point we mean: “key”—the phrase in the verse that relates to the topic at hand; “point”—do not merely rewrite the printed words; rather, tell in your own words what the text means, the basic meaning behind the words (i.e., a paraphrase).

3. What do we learn about sovereignty from God's creation of our own planet and of the animal and vegetable kingdoms?
4. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. Psalm 135:6
 - b. Psalm 115:3
5. *Making It Personal* Some say that heredity and environment account for all the inequalities among humans. Others, that God has made them so. What do you say?
6. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. Proverbs 16:4
 - b. Isaiah 40:17-18

Lesson 3 The Sovereignty of God in Administration

Please read the related section of chapter 3 in the book before answering questions for that section. Always use your own words in your answers, in order to indicate your understanding of what you have read.

This lesson is longer than some others. We suggest doing parts of it in separate study sessions; for example, sections A, B, and C in one sitting, and sections D and E in another.

Our Need (A)

1. What problem would exist in a natural world governed by the impersonal “laws of nature”?
2. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. John 3:8
 - b. Hebrews 1:3
 - c. Job 38:11

Remember, the key point is the meaning of the phrase in the verse that relates to the current topic.
3. What would result in a world where man is truly sovereign and can do as he pleases?
4. How does God show His wise rule in the common concerns of everyday life?

God’s rule over inanimate matter (B)

5. How does the creation account testify of God’s sovereignty?
Use the key point of Psalm 33:9 in your answer.
6. How does the Flood testify of God’s sovereignty? (*Gen 6:17*)
7. How do the plagues of Egypt testify of God’s sovereignty? (*Exo 9:23-26*)
8. How did Jesus Christ demonstrate God’s sovereignty over the elements when He walked upon this earth?
9. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. Psalm 147:15-18
 - b. Amos 4:7-10
10. What are we in fact doing when we complain about the weather? Why?

God’s rule over irrational creatures (C)

11. What do we learn of God’s sovereignty in Genesis 2:19 and 6:19-20?
12. What do we learn of God’s sovereignty in Exodus 9:3-6?
13. What do we learn of God’s sovereignty in each of the following.
 - a. 1 Samuel 6:2-12
 - b. 1 Kings 17:2-4

God’s rule over the children of men (D)

14. Is it possible that man is so unruly that he is outside God’s control?
Why or why not? Use the example of Judas in your answer.
15. As we consider who rules in our lives, we can identify four possible alternatives:
 - 1) Man is totally outside God’s control
 - 2) Man operates independently from God, but God may overrule the effects of the actions of evil-doers

- 3) Man operates independently from God, but God will at least judge all his actions at the Last Judgment
- 4) Every action of man is entirely under God's control, even of the most lawless of men.
 - a. Which of these is the author teaching from Scripture?
 - b. *Making It Personal* Which of these do you believe is true? Why?
- 16. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. Acts 17:28
 - b. Daniel 5:23
 - c. Proverbs 16:1
 - d. Proverbs 16:9
 - e. Proverbs 19:21
- 17. What do we learn about God's sovereignty from Luke 12:17-20?
- 18.
 - a. Who controls man's heart?
 - b. How do we know this?
 - c. What does this tell us about God's sovereign rule?
- 19. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. Job 23:13
 - b. Psalm 33:11
 - c. Proverbs 21:30
 - d. Isaiah 14:27
 - e. Isaiah 46:9-10
- 20. Does God control the actions of evil men as well as the good? How do we know this from Scripture?
- 21. What does Psalm 2:1-4 tell us about God's sovereignty?
- 22. How do God's dealings with each of the following illustrate His sovereignty?
 - a. Moses and Aaron
 - b. Moses and Elijah
 - c. Uzzah and the Philistines
 - d. Sodom and Capernaum

God's rule over angels (E)

- 23. Describe the relationship of angels to the sovereignty of God.
- 24. How do we know that Satan is subject to the sovereign rule of God?

Lesson 4 The Sovereignty of God in Salvation

Please read the related section of chapter 4 in the book before answering questions for that section. Always use your own words in your answers, in order to indicate your understanding of what you have read.

This lesson is much longer than some others. We suggest doing parts of it in separate study sessions; for example, sections A and B in one sitting, section C in one sitting, and section D in one sitting.

Salvation is of the Lord (A)

1. Why is the following argument not valid? “The reason God does not save all men is because some of them are too depraved.”
2. *Making It Personal* Was there a time when you “would not come to Christ” that you might have life? When was this?
3. Is it logical to think that God is unable to save the wicked because they will not let Him? Why or why not?
4. “The unsaved are lost because they refuse to believe; the others are saved because they believe.” Why do these others believe?
5. Where does the faith of those who believe come from? Explain your answer biblically.

The eternal purpose of the Father in election (B)

Romans 3:21-23 (1)

6.
 - a. What does Romans 3:21-23 tell us about man’s spiritual ability?
 - b. What do the words “same lump” tell us about election?
 - c. Therefore, what would be the ultimate destiny of all men, had God not intervened to choose some?
7.
 - a. What is the effect on the heart of man of this biblical picture of the Potter and the clay?
 - b. Why?
 - c. Why is this important for today?

The fact of God’s choice (2)

8. Summarize each of the four things we learn from Acts 13:48.
Use the letters (a) through (d) to mark the four parts of your answer.
9. Trace Spurgeon’s logic regarding grace, purpose, today, and eternity.

Romans 11:5-6 (b)

10. What do the words “Even so” in Romans 11:5-6 tell us about election?
11. Why is it not possible for God’s choice of a person to be based upon foresight of his good works?

12. What do 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 and Mathew 20:16 tell us about election?

The objects of God's choice (3)

13. Why has God so often chosen the weak and base things of the world, as opposed to the rich and famous? Explain your answer.

14. What do Ephesians 1:3-5 and 11 teach us about election regarding each of the following?

- a. When it occurred
- b. God's purpose
- c. God's motive

15. Summarize each of the three things we learn from 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

Use the letters (a) through (c) to mark the three parts of your answer.

16. What do we learn about works and grace in 2 Timothy 1:9?

17. a. Arrange "election," "the work of the Holy Spirit," and "our obedience by faith" into their actual sequence, using 1 Peter 1:2.

b. Describe the impact of this upon our salvation.

18. What does the "foreknowledge" of God mean,

- a. In 1 Peter 1:2?
- b. In Romans 8:28-29?

Summary (4)

19. Briefly state the essence of each of the seven points we learn from the verses in sections (2) and (3).

20. Why did God choose for salvation the ones He did?

The limited design of the Son in the Atonement (C)

For whom did Christ die? (1)

21. Many suggest that Christ died for all mankind as merely a conditional provision of salvation (and that the determination of who actually is saved is based on man's free will decision to let Christ into his heart). How does Isaiah 53 refute this assertion?

Evidences of limited design (2)

Eternal choice (a)

22. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.

- a. John 6:37-39
- b. John 17:1-2, 6, 9, 24

Remember, the key point is the meaning of the phrase in the verse that relates to the current topic.

Nature of the atonement (b)

23. Describe the atonement,
 - a. From a Godward viewpoint
 - b. From a manward viewpoint.
24. How does the legal concept of a strict substitution require a limited design for the atonement?
25. How does the concept of a ransom point to a limited design for the atonement?
26. How do we know that Christ did not bear the sins of all mankind?

Priesthood (c)

27. Do the biblical truths of Christ's intercession support a limited or unlimited design for the atonement? Why?
Use Hebrews 9:24, 3:1, 7:25, and Romans 8:33 in your answer.

Power (d)

28. Some may say that, although Christ has unlimited power, He will never force anyone to receive Him as their Lord and Savior, and therefore it is possible He died for all men and yet some are not saved. How is this assertion refuted?
29. Describe the connection among God's omnipotence, man's willingness to come to Christ, and man's inherent enmity against God.

What saith the Scriptures (3)

30. Briefly explain the significance of
 - a. "My people" and "his people" in Isaiah 53:8 and Matthew 1:21.
 - b. "For many" in Matthew 20:28.
31. Briefly explain the significance of "children of God" in John 11:49-52.
32. Briefly explain the significance of "his own," "for his friends," and "for their sakes" in John 13:1, 15:13, and 17:19.
33. Briefly explain the significance of "one died for all" in 2 Corinthians 5:14. *Also use 5:17 in your answer.*
34. What does the word *all* mean in Mark 1:5? Explain your answer.
35. Briefly explain what the word *all* means
 - a. In John 8:2
 - b. Acts 22:15.
36. Briefly explain what the word *all* means in 1 Timothy 2:6.
Use Revelation 5:9 in your answer.
37. Briefly explain what "ransom for many" means in Matthew 20:28.
38. Briefly explain what "for every man" means in Hebrews 2:9-10.

39. In closing this section, the author states that the atonement is limited, “not of value and virtue, but of design and application.”
- How could it be limited by “value and virtue”?
 - How is it limited by “design and application”?

The restricted scope of the Holy Spirit in quickening (D)

The Godhead works together (1)

40. What is the mission of the Holy Spirit in the world today?

The sovereign will of the Holy Spirit (2)

41. Compare the characteristics of the wind and the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit effects salvation (3)

42. Contrast the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in our salvation.

Use the letters (a) through (e) to mark the five parts of your answer.

43. Why is the new birth solely the work of the Holy Spirit, with man having no part in it?

Use the illustrations of physical birth and a corpse in your answer.

Quickening precedes faith (4)

44. Why must faith be a consequence of the new birth, and not a cause of it?

45. What is meant by “sanctification of the Spirit”?

In your answer, use the example of preaching to one hundred souls.

46. Compare the order of thought in 2 Thessalonians 2:13 and 1 Peter 1:2.

John 16:8-11 (5)

47. How does the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world evidence its guilt?

48. a. Whose righteousness does the presence of the Spirit establish?

- b. How does it do so?

49. How does the presence of the Holy Spirit speak of judgment?

50. a. What does the Holy Spirit’s presence demonstrate to the world?

Use the numbers (1) through (3) to mark the three parts of your answer.

- b. Explain how the Holy Spirit’s *mission* is confined to God’s elect, and is not involved with the “world.”

51. Hypothetically, what would have happened if after Christ died, the Holy Spirit were not given?

The Marriage Supper (6)

52. a. Describe a major difference between Luke 14:16-24 and Matthew 22:2-10.

- b. How can we interpret this difference?

- c. Why?

53. What do we learn from this about the Holy Spirit in salvation?

Lesson 5 The Sovereignty of God in Reprobation

Please read the related section of chapter 5 in the book before answering questions for that section. Always use your own words in your answers, in order to indicate your understanding of what you have read.

This lesson is longer than some others. We suggest doing parts of it in separate study sessions; for example, sections A and B in one sitting, section C in one sitting, and sections D, E, F, and G in one sitting.

Overview (A)

Man's opposition to this doctrine (1)

1. What is the trouble that nowadays often prevents people from receiving all of the testimony of God?

Reasoning from election (2)

2. Why is it not enough just to say, "While God did foreknow those who would reject Christ, yet He did not decree that they should"?

Confirmation from history (3)

3. In the past, many people in the world have had no gospel witness. What does this tell us about God's excluding some from eternal life?
4.
 - a. What does the situation of the great majority of those in modern western nations, who have never heard the gospel clearly presented and who do not read His Word, tell us about God's will for them?
 - b. Was God's will determined only in time, or from all eternity?
5.
 - a. "God's providences are but the manifestations of His decrees: what God does in time is only what He purposed in eternity, His own will being the alone cause of all His acts and works."
What conclusion must we draw from this regarding salvation?
 - b. *Making It Personal* Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

What saith the Scriptures? (B)

6. Write the reference and key point for each of the following Scriptures.
 - a. Joshua 11:18-20
 - b. Proverbs 16:4
 - c. Matthew 7:23

Remember, the key point is the meaning of the phrase in the verse that relates to the current topic.

Romans 9 (C)

v. 17 "For this same purpose have I raised thee up" (1)

7. a. What is the meaning of the word *raised* in v. 17?
- b. For what purpose did God raise up Pharaoh?

Pharaoh (2)

8. How can we be sure that, long before God gave Pharaoh being, He purposed to destroy him?
9. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart?
10. How does God's reprobation of Pharaoh show that He has also reprobated all others whom He did not predestinate for salvation?

v. 18 "Whom he will he hardeneth" (3)

11. Explain "judicial hardening." Use Romans 1:21 and 24 in your answer.
12. Why does "harden" in Romans 9:18 reference God's sovereign hardening, and not judicial hardening?
13. Why did God harden hearts in John 12:37-40?

v. 20 "Who art thou that repliest against God" (5)

14. Why does God respond as He does to the question, "Why doeth he yet find fault"?

v. 21 "The potter power over the clay" (6)

15. Summarize each of the three answers in vv. 20-23 to the question in v. 19, "Why doeth he yet find fault, for who hath resisted his will?"
Use the letters (a) through (c) to mark the three parts of your answer.

v. 22 "Vessels of wrath fitted to destruction" (7)

16. a. Why is "vessels of wrath" mentioned before "vessels of mercy"?
- b. Why does God make some vessels unto dishonor?
17. a. Who fits the "vessels of wrath" to destruction?
- b. How does he do it?
- c. Why does he do it?

v. 23 "He had afore prepared unto glory" (8)

18. What is the significance of the word *fitted*?

Other passages (D)

19. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. Romans 11:7
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 5:9
 - c. 1 Peter 2:8
 - d. 2 Peter 2:12
 - e. Jude 4
 - f. Revelation 13:8

Guarding against abuse of the doctrine (E)

20. Why does the doctrine of reprobation *not* mean that God takes innocent creatures and makes them wicked?
21. Why does the doctrine of reprobation *not* mean that God refuses to save those who earnestly seek salvation?
22. Why does the doctrine of reprobation *not* conflict with God's goodness?
23.
 - a. Why can we not ascertain who are among the reprobate?
 - b. How is this different from estimating if a person is saved or not saved?

Passages that seem to speak against the doctrine (F)

24. "Why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Eze 18:31). Why does this verse *not* offer Israel the choice of salvation?
25. Why does Matthew 25:41 *not* speak against the doctrine of reprobation?
26. Why does Acts 17:30 *not* speak against the doctrine of reprobation?
27. Why does 1 Timothy 2:4 *not* speak against the doctrine of reprobation?
28. Why do the passages telling us that there is no respect of persons with God, *not* speak against the doctrine of reprobation?
29. While the doctrine of reprobation may not seem fair to us, why must we nevertheless accept it as truth?

Classic theologians (G)

30. Why is the doctrine of reprobation not "hyper-" or "ultra-" Calvinism?
31.
 - a. What is "the very truth that razes the doctrine of freewill from its foundations"?
 - b. Why does it do so?
32. *Making It Personal* Many great Christian teachers of the past five centuries believed the doctrine of reprobation to be the truth as taught in Scripture. What impact does this have on your own thinking?

Lesson 6 The Sovereignty of God in Operation

Please read the related section of chapter 6 in the book before answering questions for that section. Always use your own words in your answers, in order to indicate your understanding of what you have read.

This lesson is longer than some others. We suggest doing parts of it in separate study sessions; for example, section A in one sitting, section B in one sitting, and sections C and D in one sitting.

Introduction (A)

Is God governing? (1)

1. Define “fore-ordain.”
2. Rewrite the following words into the logical sequence in which God did them (as presented by the author): foreknow, eternal purpose, events, fore-ordain.
3.
 - a. What is foreknowledge of future events founded upon?
 - b. What is another word for this?
4. Rewrite the following words into the logical sequence in which God did them (as presented by the author): govern, purpose, creation.
5. In light of this, what are prophecies?

What was God’s purpose in creating? (2)

6.
 - a. What is the great purpose of creation?
Use Proverbs 16:4 and Revelation 4:11 in your answer.
 - b. How did God design chiefly to do this?
 - c. How was this accomplished? *Use 1 Peter 1:20 in your answer.*
7. Did the Fall require God to change His plan for man? Why or why not?
8.
 - a. What is God’s design for the world?
 - b. When did He put this in place?
Use Ephesians 3:10-11 in your answer.
 - c. What impact does this have upon events in this world?

God’s method of dealing with the righteous (B)

Quickening influence (1)

9.
 - a. Why do we need the new birth?
 - b. What does God do in the new birth?
10. What is it to be “born of the Spirit”?
11. Why does the natural man not seek Christ’s salvation?
12. What is the new birth more than?
13. Describe the new birth (the first thing God does in time).

Energizing influence (2)

14. Why does God give power to His saints?
15. What else flows from God's power in His people?

Directing influence (3)

16. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. Psalm 48:14
 - b. Ephesians 2:10
 - c. Isaiah 26:12
 - d. Proverbs 16:9

Preserving influence (4)

17. How are God's preservation and our perseverance related?
Use 1 Peter 1:5 in your answer.

God's method of dealing with the wicked (C)

18.
 - a. How does God prevent the wicked from doing great wickedness?
 - b. Give several examples of this.
19.
 - a. What is meant by God's "softening influence" upon the wicked?
 - b. Give several examples of this.
20.
 - a. What is meant by God's "directing influence" upon the wicked?
 - b. Give several examples of this.
21.
 - a. What is meant by God's "hardening influence" upon the wicked?
 - b. Give several examples of this.
22. What does 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 tell us about God's hardening influence in our day?

Summary (D)

23. "God's decrees *are* being executed. What He has ordained is being accomplished. Man's wickedness is bounded. The limits of evil-doing and of evildoers has been divinely defined and cannot be exceeded. Though many are in ignorance of it, all men, good and bad, are under the jurisdiction of and are absolutely subject to the administration of the supreme Sovereign."

Making It Personal Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

Lesson 7 God's Sovereignty and the Human Will

Please read the related section of chapter 7 in the book before answering questions for that section. Always use your own words in your answers, in order to indicate your understanding of what you have read.

This lesson is longer than some others. We suggest doing parts of it in separate study sessions; for example, sections A and B in one sitting and sections C and D in another.

Introduction (A)

1. a. What is the popular idea now prevailing about how salvation comes to the sinner?
 b. What is the "free will" of man?
2. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. Romans 3:11
 - b. John 5:40
 - c. John 1:12-13
3. Though man may come to Christ, why will he not come?
4. According to the Arminian, when all men are convicted of sin, what distinguishes the converted from the unconverted?
5. In what way does the Holy Spirit do more in the converted than in the unconverted?

The nature of the "will" (B)

Definition (1)

6. a. What is the will?
 b. Why does choice require alternatives?
 c. Why does will require preference between alternatives?
 d. What determines a particular choice?
7. Is the will sovereign or servant? Why?

Freedom of will (2)

8. a. What is the supposition for freedom of will?
 b. Why can this not be true?
9. What determines the will? Briefly explain your answer.
10. In the example of the decision made by the Christian brother: "...on the one side was a sense of duty plus his own sympathy, on the other side was a sense of his own need plus a real concern for God's glory, for he felt that he ought to attend the preaching of the gospel that night. The latter prevailed."

Trace how this decision was made in his mind and will.

11. Explain how the Spirit's "drawing" a man to Christ, and the man deciding to "come" to Christ, are compatible.
Use John 6:44 in your answer.

Heart (3)

12. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
- Proverbs 4:23
 - Mark 7:21
 - Matthew 15:8
13. a. When presented with two alternatives, which will a man choose?
b. Why is this *not* determined by the will?
14. Why will the sinner not come to Christ?
15. a. Describe the difference between the immediate and the primary cause of something.
b. When it comes to decisions of the will, is it acting as the immediate or primary cause? Why?

The bondage of the human will (C)

The will in three aspects (1)

16. Briefly describe the freedom of will in each of the following.
- Adam (before his fall)
 - Jesus Christ
 - Sinful man (before conversion)

The sinner's freedom (2)

17. a. In what does the sinner's freedom consist?
b. In what way is the sinner not free?
18. Use the illustration of holding a book to describe this.

The impotency of the human will (D)

Human depravity (1)

19. What is the general impression of what it means to be "fallen"?
20. a. What is the biblical view of the extent of man's Fall?
b. Instead of being a free man, what is he?
21. a. What is sin?
b. What are its consequences?

The power of the sinner's will (2)

22. Does it lie within the sinner's power to yield himself up to God?
Briefly explain your answer.
23. By what power does a sinner come to God?
24. Describe the relationship of "free moral agency" and "total depravity."

Roman Catholicism's position (3)

25. Regarding free will, what do Arminianism and Roman Catholicism have in common?

Invite to salvation? (4)

26. List the three things indispensable for any sinner to be saved.
27. What is the main message of Ezra 1:1-5 as it relates to responding to an invitation?

Erroneous preaching (5)

28. "God has done His part, now man must do his." Is this true?
Why or why not? *Use Ephesians 2:1 in your answer.*
29. Support your answer to the prior question with the illustration of the sick man with the medicine by his side.

Objection: why preach? (6)

30. Biblically, why do we preach the gospel?
31. If men cannot respond to the gospel by themselves, what hope do we have for salvation?

Summary (E)

32. What is the main message regarding human will in the three historic Christian statements of faith cited?
33. *Making It Personal* Do you agree on this point with these statements of faith? Why or why not?

Lesson 8 God's Sovereignty and Human Responsibility

Please read the related section of chapter 8 in the book before answering questions for that section. Always use your own words in your answers, in order to indicate your understanding of what you have read.

This lesson is longer than some others. We suggest doing parts of it in separate study sessions; for example, sections A and B in one sitting, section C and D in one sitting, and section E in one sitting.

Introduction (A)

Overview (1)

1. a. What does much of the unsound doctrine of today result from?
 b. List some of these unsound doctrines.
2. From where does the expression "free moral agency" come?

Relation of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility (2)

3. List the four different approaches to dealing with the relationship between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility.
Use the letters (a) through (d) to mark the four parts of your answer.

Preserving human responsibility (B)

4. If God exerted a direct influence upon man, what is the perceived effect upon man's responsibility?

God withholds from sinning (1)

5. What is the key point of Genesis 20:6?
6. Why did God refuse to exercise His power and prevent Adam's fall?
7. What is the key point of 2 Chronicles 17:10?

Man is still responsible (2)

8. a. In what does real moral freedom consist?
b. Why?
9. How is God's "withholding from sinning" connected to man's moral freedom?
10. How does the giving of the Holy Scriptures illustrate the connection of God's sovereignty with man's responsibility?
Use the key point of 2 Peter 1:20-21 in your answer.
11. Describe how men greatly err regarding each of the following.
a. Misery and happiness
b. Folly and wisdom
c. Bondage and liberty
12. a. What is true liberty?
b. *Making It Personal* Are you experiencing this true liberty?
Why or why not?

Just condemnation (C)

13. What are the responsibilities of each of the following,
a. The natural man?
b. A sinner?

What it is to "come to Christ" (1)

14. What is it for the sinner to come to Christ that he might have life?
15. *Making It Personal* Have you come to Christ for life in this way?
Briefly explain your answer.

Willingness to "come to Christ" (2)

16. Three reasons are given as to why we say that the natural man is so depraved of heart that he will not come to Christ.

List and briefly describe each of them.

Use the letters (a) through (c) to mark the three parts of your answer.

17. a. What renders man accountable to God?
b. Why?
18. a. In what way is the distinction between natural ability and moral/spiritual ability of prime importance?
b. Use the example of two men guilty of theft to explain this.
19. a. What is the ground of human accountability?
b. What makes man a responsible creature?
c. What constitutes his guilt?
20. a. How can it remain consistent with His mercy that God should require the debt of obedience from him who is not able to pay?
b. Use the example of a drunken servant to further explain.

God's decree, holding responsible, judging guilt (D)

Judas (1)

21. a. To what is responsibility mainly attached?
b. Explain your answer.
22. Why was Judas responsible for Christ's betrayal, even though God had decreed it and ordained it?

Crucifixion of Christ (2)

23. Is God just in holding those involved responsible for the crucifixion of Christ, even though He had decreed it long beforehand? Why?

Motive of heart (3)

24. Why are men justly guilty for their actions, even though God has decreed and ordained all things?
25. If God decrees and ordains all things, how is He neither the author or the approver of sin?
26. a. Are God's decrees the necessitating cause of the sins of men?
b. If not, what are they?
c. Use the example of Judas to explain your answer.

Responsible to receive Christ, yet foreordained to condemnation (E)

No sinner knows for certain that he is condemned (1)

27. a. Why does man not know if he is condemned or not?
b. If he cannot know this, what is he responsible to know?
c. What is included in this regarding the gospel?
28. In order for man to be responsible, why is it important that he not know for certain that he is condemned?

Every sinner is responsible to search the Scriptures (2)

29. Why is it the duty of every sinner to search the Scriptures?
30. What are the prior truths that render God's condemnation of men to be just (i.e., righteous)?

Inability of the non-elect (3)

31. Briefly describe what is meant by "voluntary inability."

God's just demands and man's responsibility (4)

32. Why has God demanded of men that which they are incapable of performing? *Briefly explain each part of your answer. Use the letters (a) through (c) to mark the three parts of your answer.*
33. Use the illustration of slipping on the icy pavement to further explain part three of your answer to the above question.

The extent of human responsibility (5)

34. a. Write the key point of Luke 12:48.
b. Explain how the key point can be applied.
35. Why will the heathen, who have never heard of Christ, perish?

Conclusion (6)

Summary (a)

36. Why do some men fall into a fatalistic inertia?
37. What is meant by the *use of means*?
See footnote in chapter 4 section B.3 if helpful.
38. Even though God has predetermined everything, why must men nevertheless use means?
In your answer, use the key points from Deuteronomy 29:29 and Acts 27:22, 31.

Lesson 9 God's Sovereignty and Prayer

Please read the related section of chapter 9 in the book before answering questions for that section. Always use your own words in your answers, in order to indicate your understanding of what you have read.

This lesson is longer than some others. We suggest doing parts of it in separate study sessions; for example, sections A and B in one sitting, and sections C, D, E, and F in one sitting.

The problem today (A)

An editorial on prayer (1)

1. "To say that human destiny may be changed by the will of man," basically is to say two things. What are they?
2. Why is it erroneous to say that "God will not...bring to pass His eternal purpose unless we pray"?

A book on prayer (2)

3.
 - a. Why is there no need for God to change His designs or purposes?
 - b. Why do men alter their purposes?
 - c. If God has formed His purpose from perfect goodness and wisdom, what are we saying if we say that He changes His purpose?
4. What three errors are in the statement, "God's policy is shaped as the prayers are more numerous"?
Use the letters (a) through (c) to mark the three parts of your answer.
5. What is the underlying cause of these erroneous thoughts on prayer?
6.
 - a. What is our greatest encouragement to pray?
 - b. Why?

Why God bids us to pray (B)

God's honor (1)

7. In what way do we recognize God's rule over all things when we pray?
8. In what ways is prayer an act of worship?
Use the letters (a) through (d) to mark the four parts of your answer.
9. In what ways does prayer redound to God's glory?

Spiritual blessing (2)

10. How does prayer humble the one praying?
11. In what way is prayer an exercise of faith?
12. How does prayer call love into action?
13. How does prayer teach us to value God's blessings?

Our needs (3)

14. Why does prayer not inform God of our needs?
15. If prayer is not to inform God of our needs, what is the purpose of bringing our needs to God in prayer?

Predestination and prayer (C)

16. Why must Christians pray?
17. Explain the following statement: “God has decreed the means¹ as well as the end, and among the means is prayer.”
18. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. James 5:17-18
 - b. Daniel 9:2-3
 - c. Jeremiah 29:11-12
19.
 - a. If God’s will is not altered by prayer, what does prayer do in regards to God’s will?
 - b. How does prayer do this?
20. What is the error in the idea of “Word/Faith,” in which some think that God is bound to answer their prayers for what they want if only they have enough faith; and when He does not give them what they want, it is because they did not have enough faith?
21. What is one possible consequence in the believer of unanswered prayer?

Answered prayer (D)

22. Define biblical prayer (for prayer of petition).
23. In John 11, what does the story of Lazarus teach us about the attitude of the believer when bringing his needs to God?
24. In 2 Corinthians 12, what does the experience of Paul’s infirmity teach us about God’s method of responding to our needs expressed in prayer?
25. Explain the proper interpretation of 1 John 5:14, “If we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.”
26. Explain the proper interpretation of John 16:23, “Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.”

Definition of prayer (E)

27. What is prayer?
28.
 - a. What does “submission to the divine will” mean?
 - b. Why can we be sure that every prayer will be answered?

¹ **means** – instruments used of God to accomplish His purposes, such as prayer, reading and memorizing the Word, the preaching of the Word, personal/family/corporate worship, wise and godly counsel, giving, fellowship among believers.

Summary (F)

29. Why is there nothing inconsistent between divine sovereignty and Christian prayer?

Lesson 10 Our Attitude toward His Sovereignty

Please read the related section of chapter 10 in the book before answering questions for that section. Always use your own words in your answers, in order to indicate your understanding of what you have read.

This lesson is longer than some others. We suggest doing parts of it in separate study sessions; for example, sections A, B, C, and D in one sitting, and sections E, F, and G in one sitting.

Introduction (A)

1. List the things that an understanding of the doctrine of the sovereignty of God is designed to do for and in us.
2.
 - a. What is the fullest meaning of the sovereignty of God?
 - b. What is it to recognize the sovereignty of God?
3. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. Job 42:5-6
 - b. Isaiah 6:5
 - c. Daniel 10:7-9

Godly fear (B)

4. List some of the consequences of a lack of fear of God.
5. Regarding godly fear, describe
 - a. What it is not
 - b. What it is.

Implicit obedience (C)

6. Rearrange and rewrite the following in their logical cause-effect sequence.
 - a. An obedient walk
 - b. A sense of dependency
 - c. A sight of God
 - d. Casting ourselves upon God
 - e. Realization of our littleness
7.
 - a. Describe the native evil of our hearts.
 - b. What is the great corrective to this evil?
 - c. Why?

8. Describe the relationship among the following.
 - ignorance
 - irreverence
 - defiant spirit
 - disobedience
9. Describe the relationship among the following.
 - recognizing the Bible as truly God's authoritative Word
 - realizing the Scriptures define God's will for you
 - seeing what an awful thing it is to ignore the Scriptures
 - receiving the Bible as addressed to your own soul
 - crying with the psalmist: "order my steps in thy word"
 - no longer picking and choosing verses that meet your approval
 - unqualified and wholehearted submission to God and His Word
 - true reverence for God
 - obedience to God according to His Word (practical godliness)

Entire resignation (D)

10. a. What is our natural response to afflictions, losses, and disappointments?
b. Why?
11. a. What is a godly response to afflictions, losses, and disappointments?
b. Why?
12. Describe all the things that come from a true recognition of God's sovereignty.
13. In 1 Samuel 3, what do we learn from Eli when he was told that his two sons would be slain?
14. In Job 1, what do we learn additionally from Job's response to losses?
15. "It is to the Lord's will we must bow."
 - a. List the areas of life the author mentions that are under God's sovereign rule.

Making It Personal

- b. What other areas of life can you think of that could be under God's direct rule?
- c. Do you think all these areas, all of life, is under God's direct rule? Briefly explain your answer.

Deep thankfulness and joy (E)

16. a. On what point are our souls so often put to the test?
b. Why is this so?
17. When we pray to thank God for His blessing, what does this "argue"? Why?
18. In this context, what is faith?

Christ, our example (F)

Christ's godly fear (1)

19. a. What is godly fear?
- b. List the instances mentioned in which Christ exemplified godly fear.

Christ's implicit obedience (2)

20. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. Philippians 2:7
 - b. Philippians 2:8
 - c. John 10:17-18

Christ's entire resignation (3)

21. Write the key point of John 6:38.
22. How does Luke 22:42 superlatively exemplify submission and resignation to the pleasure of our sovereign God?
23. Why has Christ left us such examples?
24. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. Psalm 22:6
 - b. John 4:34
 - c. Psalm 40:8

Christ's thankfulness and joy (4)

25. Why are Matthew 11:25 and Luke 10:21 so striking?

Adoring worship (G)

26. Why is it that men will worship really at no other footstool than God's sovereignty?
27.
 - a. Why should we be terrified if a man could exercise absolute tyrannical power over us?
 - b. What is the difference that causes us to be filled with joy when we realize that God exercises absolute unlimited power over us?
28. Describe, then, what our attitude should be toward the sovereignty of God.
29. *Making It Personal* In the concluding poem, which phrase stands out to you as most meaningful? Why?

Lesson 11 Difficulties and Objections

Please read the related section of chapter 11 in the book before answering questions for that section. Always use your own words in your answers, in order to indicate your understanding of what you have read.

This lesson is longer than some others. We suggest doing parts of it in separate study sessions; for example, sections A and B in one sitting, section C in one sitting, and section D in one sitting, and sections F and G in one sitting.

Introduction (A)

1. a. While some declare it to be impossible to harmonize God's sovereignty with man's responsibility, what approach to this seeming incompatibility does the author take instead?
b. Why?
2. a. What do some do in order to avoid the concept of God's sovereignty reducing man to a mere puppet?
b. Describe the result of this. *Use Hebrews 4:12-13 in your answer.*

Has God decreed everything? (B)

3. What is it to say that God is sovereign?
4. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. Psalm 115:3
 - b. Isaiah 14:27
 - c. Daniel 4:35
 - d. Romans 11:36
5. "Whatever takes place in time is but the outworking of that which God decreed in eternity."
 - a. What is the scope of this statement?
 - b. Are there any exceptions?
 - c. *Making It Personal* Do you agree with the statement? Why or why not?

Matthew 6:10 (1)

6. a. Why do some think that Matthew 6:10 indicates that God's will is not being done on earth?
b. What is the answer to this objection?

Genesis 6:6 (2)

7. a. What objection to God's sovereignty do some see in Genesis 6:6?
b. What attribute of God would be denied if the objection were valid?
c. What is the answer to his objection?
8. a. Define "anthropomorphism."
b. Why does such a thing exist?

9. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
- 1 Samuel 15:29
 - James 1:17

Matthew 23:37 (3)

10. a. What objection to God's sovereignty do some see in Matthew 23:37?
b. What is the answer to this objection?
11. a. What further objection do people raise using Isaiah 65:2?
b. What is the answer to this objection?
12. a. What occasioned Christ's tears in Luke 19:41?
b. Did those tears indicate a disappointed God? Why or why not?

Does God love everybody? (C)

The problem (1)

13. a. If a particular teaching is popular with all classes of people (the saved and the unsaved), what should that tell us?
b. Why are untruths (like "God loves everybody") popular with unbelievers?
14. a. Why must God's love be a holy love?
b. What results from telling those in rebellion against Christ that God loves them?
15. a. What do sinners need to have brought before them?
b. Why?

Many Scriptures (2)

16. What do John 14:21 and 23 tell us about God loving everybody?
17. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - Psalm 5:5
 - John 3:36
18. Write the reference and key point for what each of the following tells us about whom God loves.
 - Romans 8:39
 - Romans 9:13
 - Hebrews 12:6
 - James 1:17

John 3:16 (3)

19. a. Did God love all men in the past? Why or why not?
Use Scripture in your answer.
b. Does Scripture indicate that God will love all men in the future?
Why or why not?
c. What does this tell us about God's love for all men today?

20. a. What do we mean when we say a word is used in a general, relative sense as opposed to a specific, absolute sense?
- b. Describe what this means for the use of “world” in the following Scriptures.
 - 1) John 7:4
 - 2) John 12:19
 - 3) Romans 1:8
 - 4) Revelation 13:3
21. In John 3, what does the fact that Jesus was speaking to someone like Nicodemus tell us about his use of “world” in v. 16?
22. a. Who is signified by the “world” in John 6:33?
- b. How do we know this?
23. a. Who is signified by the “world” in 2 Corinthians 5:19?
- b. How do we know this?
24. a. “For God so loved the world...” What is the meaning of “the world” in John 3:16?
- b. Why? *Try to put the reason for your answer in one or two sentences.*

The sovereignty of God in salvation (D)

Only a limited number elected (1)

Please open your Bible to 2 Peter 3 as you do the next questions.

25. In 2 Peter 3:9,
 - a. God is “not slack concerning his promise.” What is this promise?
 - b. Why might “not slack” raise a valid objection to this understanding of the meaning of “promise”?
 - c. Why is “not slack” an invalid objection after all?
26. In 2 Peter 3:9, God is
 - a. “Longsuffering to us-ward.” Who are the “us-ward”?
 - b. “Not willing that any should perish.” Who are the “any”?

God’s irresistible power in salvation (2)

27. What passages clearly show us that the Holy Spirit sometimes works irresistibly? *Give the reference and key point for each passage.*
28. List the two passages used to object to the Holy Spirit’s irresistible power in salvation.
*For each, list the reference and the key phrase in the passage.
 Use the letters (a) and (b) to mark the two parts of your answer.*
29. What principles do we learn from the following.
 - a. Nehemiah 9:30
 - b. Matthew 11:20*A principle is a general truth that may be applied in other similar situations.*

30. Summarize how these principles (from the question above) answer the objection raised, that Scripture says “ye do always resist the Holy Ghost,” suggesting that the Holy Spirit’s work in salvation can be resisted?

Preaching the gospel to every creature (3)

31. Describe the nature of the objection presented in this section.

The nature of the gospel (a)

32. a. Why does God want the gospel to be proclaimed far and wide?
b. What is the key point of 2 Corinthians 2:15?
33. Is the gospel an offer or a proclamation? Explain your answer.
34. Describe the components of the gospel in brief.
35. List the two things that God does “in the gospel.”
(Use the letters (a) and (b) to mark the two parts of your answer.)

Preaching the gospel to all nations (b)

36. Why are repentance and remission of sins to be preached to all nations?
37. How is the gospel God’s “winnowing fan”?

God’s other purposes (c)

38. In addition to the salvation of His children, how else does God use the gospel?
39. In what ways is the gospel a test of the character of the non-elect?
Use John 3:19 in your answer.

God’s command (d)

40. a. What is the problem in asking questions of God that no finite mind can fully understand?
b. In light of this, why should we preach the gospel?
41. How does the general point of these verses illustrate this?
Genesis 22:2, 21:12; Jeremiah 7:27; Ezekiel 3:4-7
42. Why are human efforts to “help” the gospel misguided?

Lesson 12 The Value of This Doctrine

Please read the related section of chapter 12 in the book before answering questions for that section. Always use your own words in your answers, in order to indicate your understanding of what you have read.

This lesson is longer than some others. We suggest doing parts of it in separate study sessions; for example, sections A and B in one sitting, sections C through F in one sitting, and sections G through K in one sitting.

Introduction (A)

1.
 - a. What do we know through doctrine?
 - b. What happens when doctrine is neglected?
 - c. Describe the connection between belief and practice.
2. Describe what has resulted from a lack of teaching on the following doctrines.
 - a. Divine inspiration of the Scriptures
 - b. Justification
 - c. Sanctification
 - d. The new birth
3.
 - a. What makes doctrinal teaching unprofitable?
 - b. What is essential to keep doctrinal teaching from being unprofitable?
 - c. What flows from this essential?
4. How important is the doctrine of God's sovereignty?
5. Briefly describe the author's point in each of these metaphors.
 - a. center of gravity
 - b. milestone
 - c. cord
 - d. plumb-line
 - e. balance
 - f. sheet-anchor
 - g. cordial
6.
 - a. What flows from the doctrine of sovereignty?
 - b. Why?

Veneration of the divine character (B)

7.
 - a. What are God's "creatorial rights"?
 - b. How does the doctrine of God's sovereignty exalt them?
Use 1 Corinthians 8:6, Romans 9:21, and Revelation 4:11 in your answer.
 - c. Describe the proper attitude of the creature toward his Creator.
8. Even though God is perfectly holy, He has sovereignly allowed evil in the world. Describe how this displays God's inscrutable wisdom.
Use the letters (a) through (d) to mark the four parts of your answer.

9. God's sovereignty shows the irreversibility of His will. In the beginning, God created man to glorify Himself.
 - a. Did God have to change His plan when man fell? Why or why not?
 - b. Today, does the wickedness of men force God to change His plan? How do we know?
10.
 - a. When did God's purposes originate?
 - b. For how long will they continue?
 - c. What is included in their scope?
11.
 - a. Why is grace said to be "free"?
 - b. If grace is free, why must it be sovereign?
 - c. How is grace in salvation like a dragnet?
12. What does sovereign grace reveal?
Use the letters (a) through (c) to mark the three parts of your answer.

Foundation of true religion (C)

13.
 - a. Why must Matthew 11:29 guide us in our approach to Scripture?
 - b. How does the attitude of Matthew 11:29 guide us in our approach to Scripture.

Repudiation of salvation by works (D)

14.
 - a. What is salvation by works?
 - b. *Making It Personal* Why do men like it?
15. Regarding salvation from sin,
 - a. "God is willing to do His part if you will do yours." "God helps those who help themselves." How do these statements deny the gospel of grace, a most precious truth of the Bible?
 - b. Describe how simply making a decision for Christ, exercising your own will to invite Christ into your life, is a "work" of human effort that is the heretical salvation by works.
16. How does Romans 9:16 counter salvation by works?
17. If a sinner cannot do anything of himself to receive God's salvation,
 - a. How might he feel (in his flesh)?
 - b. Why is this good?
 - c. How will God use this?

Humility to the creature (E)

18. Describe the spirit of our age.
19. How does the doctrine of God's sovereignty counter this?
20.
 - a. What does the heart of man want in his salvation?
 - b. What does knowledge of God's sovereignty produce instead?
21.
 - a. What does this doctrine result in?
 - b. Why?

Absolute security (F)

- 22. a. How does the sinner respond to the fact that it is impossible for him to withstand God's will?
b. *Making It Personal* Why does he respond this way?
- 23. a. How does the saint respond to God's sovereignty?
b. Why does he respond this way?
- 24. *Making It Personal*
 - a. How do you respond to God's sovereignty?
 - b. Why do you respond this way?
- 25. *Making It Personal*
 - a. Of all the promises and great truths in Psalm 91:1-10, which one stands out as most meaningful to you?
 - b. Why?
- 26. a. How does God's sovereignty contribute to the ground of the saint's confidence?
b. *Making It Personal* On what are you basing your sense of security?

Comfort in sorrow (G)

- 27. How does the doctrine of the sovereignty of God impart peace to the Christian in affliction?
- 28. What facts provide the basis for the preciousness of this truth?

Spirit of sweet resignation (H)

- 29. a. On what does our contentment rest?
b. How is this different than a fatalistic acquiescence?
- 30. Describe how Aaron exemplifies this in Leviticus 10:1-3.
- 31. Describe how David exemplifies this in 2 Samuel 15:25-26.
- 32. If these men responded this way with the limited light of the Old Testament, how should our response differ with the increased light of the New Testament?
(Examples of light in the New Testament: walking with God exemplified in Christ's earthly ministry, Christ's love for us exemplified at the cross, the Word of God inscripturated, the Holy Spirit indwelling believers, the Church established, etc.)

Evoking praise (I)

- 33. What from the past brings the Christian to praise God?
- 34. How do we know that God is using everything that happens to us now for our good?

Guarantee of final triumph (J)

35. a. Compared to the relative prosperity of so many unbelievers, when we see the difficulty for most believers, where must we look to get a better sense of reality?
- b. How does this improve our confidence?

Provision of a resting place for the heart (K)

36. In what two things does the glory of God consist?
Use the letters (a) and (b) to mark the two parts of your answer.
37. Some charge that the doctrine of the sovereignty of God is horrible and dangerous. How is this refuted?

Lesson 13 Conclusion

Please read the related section of chapter 13 in the book before answering questions for that section. Always use your own words in your answers, in order to indicate your understanding of what you have read.

This lesson is longer than some others. We suggest doing parts of it in separate study sessions; for example, sections A and B in one sitting, and sections C and D in one sitting.

Overview (A)

Balance of truth (1)

1. Use the analogy of beauty to describe the importance of balance in doctrinal truth.
2. What is the author's reason for emphasizing God's sovereignty in this work?
3. *Making It Personal* Of all the Scriptures that illustrate a balance of truth, which few stand out to you as noteworthy?

The error in our age (2)

4. Summarize "the popular beliefs of the day."

What saith the Scriptures? (3)

5. a. What is the result when man's will conflicts with God's?
Making It Personal
- b. Of the scriptural examples mentioned, which stand out to you?
- c. Why?

Revelation 17:17 (a)

6. Describe what we learn from the fulfillment of any single prophecy.
7. Write the key point of Revelation 17:17.

Micah 4:11-13 (b)

8. Regarding God's sovereignty, what three things are instanced in Micah 4:11-13?

Use the letters (a) through (c) to mark the three parts of your answer.

John 19:9-11 (c)

9. a. What did Pilot think about his "power"?
b. What principle do we find in Pilot's statement?
10. a. What is Christ's response?
b. What principle do we find in Christ's response?
11. What does Christ's response tell us about the extent of God's rule?

God's sovereignty and the believer's growth in grace (B)

12. a. Restate the dilemma addressed in this section.
b. What are the author's two answers to this dilemma?
Use the numbers (1) and (2) to mark the two parts of your answer.
13. How does proper appreciation of God's sovereignty support development of Christian character?
14. a. What does self-sufficiency lead to?
b. Write the reference and key point for each of the Scriptures that support this.
15. Why does God command us to do what we are unable to do?

God's sovereignty and Christian service (C)

16. Restate the dilemma addressed in this section.
17. a. Trace the changing attitude of one who goes forth zealously to do the work of an evangelist, but to no avail.
b. What presupposition underlies his frustration?
18. Describe God's correctives for such a discouraged servant.
Give all four answers provided by the author, using letters (a) through (d) to mark each part.
19. In evangelism,
a. What is God's "business," i.e., the part He is responsible for?
b. What is our business?
20. What is the key point of John 10:16?
21. Why should we not be disappointed when "goats" do not hear our evangelizing calls?

Closing reflections (D)

A merciful provision (1)

22. What is the answer to all the accusations that the doctrine of predestination is cruel and unjust?

23. What is the key point of Romans 9:27, 29?
24. When God passes by some for salvation, why is it no injustice?
25. Write the reference and key point for each of the following.
 - a. Romans 11:36
 - b. 1 Corinthians 8:6
 - c. Ephesians 1:11

God's wisdom vindicated (2)

26. Describe the relationship among God's working, Satan, human opposition, and God's eternal purpose.
27. *Making It Personal*
 - a. What are the main lessons you have learned during this course?
 - b. How valuable has this course been to you?
 - c. How will you think differently?

*Thank you for taking this course using the classic
book The Sovereignty of God by A. W. Pink.
Please request your next course at this time.*

*Now that you have completed this course, it is important to put
into practice the new insights which the Lord has given you
during your study. Spend some quiet time to think through the
course, perhaps in re-reading the main headings and your notes.*

*Because we all tend to forget what we do not review, we suggest
to review these main lessons daily for the next week, and at least
once per week for the following month. In this way the key spiritual
principles can begin to become a part of your life and practice.*

Appendix One: Detailed Course Instructions

1. Procedure for Taking the Course

- a. The reading material for this course consists of the reading text printed at the beginning of each lesson of this study guide.
- b. Before beginning to read, please pray for God's enabling to learn spiritually.
- c. Before you begin a lesson, please read the reading text completely.
- d. After reading the text, answer the related questions in this study guide. The lessons in this course are "open book," which often enhances learning by removing unnecessary pressure. In addition, some questions ask for a personal response, where the answer will not be found in the reading material. In this case, we ask only for your honesty and best effort.
- e. The questions are designed to be carefully thought through. Several of the questions are sensitive; they have to do with your heart attitudes. So please do not rush, or you will be defeating the purpose of the course! Answer all of the questions as honestly as you can. The answers are confidential.
- f. Do not go to the next question until you have answered the previous one.

2. Answer pages

Try to be concise and as clear as possible in your answers. Please write or type your answers on regular 8.5 x 11 inch (A4 metric) paper, or on the preprinted answer sheets if provided. Please write clearly and neatly, and if possible print. Note each page with Lesson #, each answer with Question #, and skip a line between questions

3. Supplies

Paper, pen, and Bible are needed to complete your assignments. The King James Version is quoted, but you may use another version if you do not have a KJV.

4. Completion of Assignments

- a. If taking this course with a local coordinator, please follow their instructions.
- b. If you are taking this course as **individual independent study** (non-graded), save your answer sheets for future reference. (Skip the below instructions 5 & 6).

5. Only if Correspondent Study

- a. Four months are allotted for the completion of this course. *You can be granted an extension by contacting your course coordinator.*
- b. Mail your answer sheets to your course coordinator after completing Lessons 1 to 7, and again after Lessons 8 to 13. Only mail the answer sheets, not the questions. They will be graded and returned to you by regular mail as soon as possible. Please make sure you write your **name, student ID, course title, and lesson number** on each answer sheet. Please see the sample page after the Table of Contents at front. Headings should be in the following format:

Your name student ID course SOG lesson number

6. Written Feedback (only if correspondent study)

Spiritual success is not measured by high grades, but by growth in Christ-likeness to God's glory. Therefore, the motivation in taking this course is to see God change your life. There are no letter or number grades such as "A" or "100" to be earned. The grader will offer comments or suggestions from Scripture in response to your answers. Some answers have no comments because the answer is correct or personal.