

*God Is Government*

*Isaiah 33:22*

*“For the LORD is our judge, the  
LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD  
is our king; he will save us.”*



## THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MANKIND

### PART TWENTY-ONE

As we come to the last few writings on the subject of “Our Sovereignty” we need to focus on us as a people. We need to consider our earthly actions as they pertain to our eternal sovereignty in Christ living here on earth and in the heavenlies. It is in this visualization that we need to focus on how our earthly sovereignty takes shape. We will focus our attention on our doorway to heaven in this writing.



A man by the name of H. A. Ironside summarized the paradox about fate versus free will graphically without the benefit of modern physics. He described our opportunity for salvation as a door. He said it is as if he is walking down a hall, and he comes to a door in the wall. Over the door it says “Whosoever will may enter.” He looks at that door, and he can either go in or not go in. It is his choice. He makes a decision, and he opens the door and walks through.



On the other side, he finds a banquet hall with a feast sumptuously laid out. He walks around the tables, and he finds name cards at every place setting. After looking over the names, he is startled to find a place setting with his name on the card. He is astounded to learn that he was expected. How did they know he was coming? He could have chosen not to open the door he just came through. On the other side, remember, it had said, “Whosoever will may enter.” However, he sees that on this side the door is labeled, “Foreordained before the foundation of the world.”

This is not The Twilight Zone. This is the paradox that is explained because God knows the end from the beginning. We have choices to make, but God already knows what those choices will be. He is known from the beginning who are His – the ones who will be with Him in eternity. From our side of the door, we have a chance to open the door or not. From His side of the door, we were foreordained from the beginning of time.

## **Human Software**

Imagine a personal computer. Imagine we know everything that is to know about every circuit, every wire, every part of that hardware. Would that tell us anything about its behavior? Absolutely not, because the hardware is simply a residence for something else called software. The software determines which programs the computer runs. The hardware is the engine that gives the software the ability to run the programs it needs to run.

We can put software on CDs or on thumb drives. These days we download software over the internet. Suppose I have a blank thumb drive and a sensitive postal scale. Let us say I put the thumb drive on the postal scale, and it weighs exactly one ounce. Then, let us say I load software with 10 GB worth of digital pictures and videos. When I put the thumb drive back on the postal scale, it will still weigh exactly one ounce. Why? Software has no mass. Its embodiment at some instant may reflect mass, but it has no mass. I can sit in a coffee shop and use their WIFI, and I can send information through the air. It travels up into space, hits satellited, and bounces back.

If I look at a crowd of people, I cannot see the software, the true essence of those people. I can see the temporary residences they are dwelling in, but I cannot see the real them. The real us is software, not hardware. This shell we are living in is a temporary hard drive.

I had an interesting experience a few years back. I had a rigorous schedule back then, and I did a lot of writing, even then. I was very dependent on my laptop because it allowed me to write while I traveled. After a few years of hard use, my laptop finally died. I took it to the shop to get fixed, but it had booted up for the last time. I was in trouble, because I depended on my laptop, and I could not afford a new one. Some friends of my wife, in the computer field, were talking with my wife and she brought up the issue to see if any of them might know what we could do. It ended up that one of the guys in this group told my wife that he had some laptops that had just been upgraded and he not only gave us one but three newly upgraded computers. I was more grateful for this than I can tell you.

I will never forget the day that I unpacked it and fired it up. I started loading it with all the software that I had collected – 25 years of tools – and I was back in business on familiar terms. All the files I was used to were there for me again, except that they ran about a hundred times faster.

That experience left an impression on me, and it hit me with a realization: we are all heading for an upgrade. Software has no mass. The real us has no mass (spiritual). This means that software is not affected by time. One day we are going to junk our old hardware (physical), but the part that is eternal will be transferred.

You and I are eternal, whether we like it or not. That is good news for those who are saved, but it is terrible news if we are not. As human beings we face the prospect of two deaths, not just one. We are all familiar with the first death, but that is not the death that should concern us. The second death is the one that is everything and terrifying.

### **Resurrection**

We all know about DNA, the code for life. When an egg is fertilized, it becomes a zygote and goes through mitosis, splitting and growing, splitting and growing. The two cells become four, and the four cells become eight. After a little while something fascinating happens. The cells begin to differentiate into different body parts. Pretty soon we see the line that will become the backbone grow down the middle. Some cells become bone tissue, and some become heart muscle. Each new cell starts taking its role necessary for an entire body to develop. This is staggering considering the fact that the exact same DNA reproduces in each cell during mitosis. Identical strands of DNA are created over and over again, yet certain sections are expressed in one set of cells while other sections are expressed in other sets as the body forms the lungs, kidneys, and eyes. It is all pre-programmed, and it is quite amazing.

Most westerners have seen the Jurassic Park movies, where DNA from dinosaurs has been turned into dull dinosaurs. God has the technology to do that if He wanted. He could resurrect our bodies with just a little bit of DNA. However, even if He had a full body that looked like me, there would be something missing. The hardware of our bodies is brilliantly put together, but our hardware is nothing without its software. Even if your bodies were resurrected because somebody cloned our DNA, that new body would not be you.

### **Salvation**

We are going to spend eternity either in the presence of God (Heaven) or out of the presence of God (hell). How do we make sure we are going to be ushered into the presence of God when we cast off this mortal coil? No problem. We just have to be perfect.

Walter Martin used to irreverently say that there are two ways to get to Heaven. Plan A and Plan B:

- PLAN A – “You never screw up from the time of your accountability onwards. You never make a mistake.” Whether we are tired or stressed out, whether people are unkind to us and treat us unjustly, we simply go through all the contingencies of life without ever doing anything wrong. If we are successful, then we can march right through the pearly gates of Heaven, walk-up to God and say, “Hello. Please more over. Now there is two of us.”
- PLAN B – “Accept your pre-paid ticket.” In plan B we embrace God’s willingness to impure the righteousness of Jesus Christ to us.

Which one is actually possible? This was Walter’s way of making his point. Unless we live in a world of self-delusion, we recognize that Plan A is exceptionally impossible, and only one man has ever done it. The rest of us do not get through life without errors. John and Paul both said it well for us:

*“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”*

- 1 John 1:8

*“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”*

- Romans 3:23

Those who have accepted the redemption that God has provided are in for some real excitement. It is going to be tremendous fun, because we are going to be joint heirs with Him. We have no ability to grasp the joy that will be involved in joining with Christ in the eternal work He is doing.

Those who are not in Jesus Christ have a big, big problem, because they are positive. Our biggest problem is that we are born sin positive. We have a genetic defect from our father Adam, and the only cure is the blood of Jesus Christ. When we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, putting away our pride and seeking His forgiveness, we are accepted into eternity as adopted children. Faith is not just recognizing our sin. It is understanding that God wants to forgive us and rejoices to bring us into His family.

Each one of us can be assured of our salvation without even leaving our seats. In the privacy of our own will, we can commit ourselves into the hands of the Father who will seal our eternity.

The differences between Arminianism and Calvinism on eternal security are academic. Why do I say that? If someone apparently becomes a Christian, apparently show some fruit, and then falls away, the Calvinist will say that this person was not truly born again in the first place. The Arminian says that this person was either not born again or turned away from God and has lost his salvation. However, nobody knows the true situation except for God Himself Only He knows the goings on in the heart, and only He knows those who were always His.

*“3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”*

- Ephesians 1:3-14