

“Joyfully Living Under the Sovereignty of God **While Suffering**” (Part 4)
Luke 8:22-56

“If (Since) God is wiser than us, His judgments must differ from ours on many things, and not least on good and evil. What seems good and evil to us, may not actually be.” (C.S. Lewis)

- God uses suffering to sanctify us:
 - “Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us **rely not on ourselves** but on God who raises the dead.” (2 Corinthians 1:9)
 - “A thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to **keep me from becoming conceited**.” (2 Corinthians 12:7b)
 - “For this light momentary affliction is **preparing for us an eternal weight of glory** beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen....” (2 Corinthians 4:17)
- God uses secondary causes to accomplish His plan and purposes and they/we are responsible for their/our actions because they act by their own choice....
 - **God can use nothing....** “By faith we understand that the universe was created by the Word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of the things that are visible.” (Hebrews 11:3)
 - **God can use angels....** “Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.” (Acts 12:23)
 - **God can use Satan....** “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. **And when you have turned again**, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:31-32)
 - “As for you, **you meant evil against me**, but **God meant it for good**, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” (Genesis 50:20)
 - **God can use sinful people....** “For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place.” (Acts 4:27-28)
 - **God can use His people....** “What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.” (1 Corinthians 3:5-6)
- Four Realities about God’s Sovereignty and Providence:
 - Man is responsible for all of his preferences, choices, behaviors, and sin for those who are outside of Christ (Revelation 20:12; Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).
 - Man has causality, that is, what man chooses to do by his own will has great effect on himself, others, and the creation, but does not ever impede God’s plan, but runs in cooperation with it (Hebrews 12:5-11; Matthew 2:16; Acts 4:27-28).
 - God has ultimate authority to allow or prevent all actions or desires by His volitional creatures according to His wisdom and plan (Luke 4:28-30; Acts 7:54-60; 18:1-11; 23:12-24;).
 - There is nothing that exists in all creation apart from God and nothing in all creation acts autonomously apart from God (Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:16-18; Psalm 115:3; Ephesians 1:11).

Worship: Glorious Christ — Sovereign Grace Music

Bless the Lord , O My Soul (Psalm 103) — Sovereign Grace Music Speak, O Lord — The Gettys

Closing Song: Nothing But The Blood — Various Artists

Service Times: Sundays: Prayer 9:45a/Church 10:30a; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30p/Men 7p; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20p/Church 7p

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of September we are collecting monetary donations for the Christian Union Co-op. This is the general fund out of which the denomination aids individual churches within the denomination, as well as paying for repairs and upkeep of the State Home Office. The money we are collecting will go directly towards repairs that need to be done to the grounds and to the kitchen. There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations. You can also give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for Christian Union.

★**CITIZENS CONCERT:** Christina is arranging a group trip to see Citizens in Columbus TONIGHT! Online tickets are \$18 a person. Please let Christina know if you are interested in going so she can arrange carpooling. (740)755-6512

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch NEXT Sunday, September 22nd, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, please sign-up to bring something for the meal. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the food and the fellowship with us!

★**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We have two different ministries that are in need of some volunteers:

- The Maintenance Ministry** is looking for two to three people to join the ministry to help with the set-up and teardown for services and fellowship meals. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions about serving in this ministry, please see Hunter Ardrey.
- The Children's Ministry** is also looking for some volunteers. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or have any questions about serving in this ministry, please see Kalen or Courtney Dees.