

Wednesday Night Bible Study

October 14, 2021

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Main Study

Philippians 4:4-7

We tend to “live” in the future--in our planning--instead of slowing down and making the most of the present.

If God is sovereign, why do we pray?

- To build our relationship with the Lord
- To build our trust of the Lord
- Prayer prepares our heart to receive the thing that happens afterwards--we pray not because it changes God’s mind, but because it changes our hearts.

Why did Jesus pray?

- We have to remember that Jesus, in His humanity, suffered. Just like we suffer.
- Philippians tells us that Jesus gave up His humanity (Philippians 2:5-8). He willingly submitted to the Father in all things.
- Jesus had to *grow* in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.
- Jesus said that only the Father knows (Mark 13:32). Was He lying?

God’s Sovereignty vs Man’s Responsibility

“Come to me, you who are weary” -> You are the one going to Jesus

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.” -> Nobody comes unless they’re called

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- **Both of these are true at the same time.** We have to learn to think on two hands
 - Spurgeon's illustration:
 - This situation is like a doorway. On one side is a sign that says "Whosoever will come, come." On the other side, once you've walked through, is a sign that says, "Called before the foundation of the world."
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Open Theism is the thesis that, because God loves us and desires that we freely choose to reciprocate His love, He has made His knowledge of, and plans for, the future conditional upon our actions. Though omniscient, God does not know what we will freely do in the future.

[Here is an example of a refutation of Open Theism](#)