

L E A D E R ' S E D I T I O N

A Study Guide for

A. W. Pink's

The Sovereignty of God

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*“It is not blind fate, unbridled evil, man or Devil,
but the Lord Almighty who is ruling the world,
ruling it according to His own good pleasure
and for His own eternal glory.”*

—A . W . P I N K

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Preface to the Study Guide

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).

This *Study Guide* is designed to be used by a Mentor working with a Bible student reading A. W. Pink’s classic, *The Sovereignty of God*. There are five parts to the study guide. The only difference between the *Study Guide* and the *Student’s Study Guide* is the Mentor will have all the answers. In each *Study Guide*, a definite pattern is followed.

Review

The questions and answers are based upon the text. There will be no answer that cannot be easily found within the material read. As much as possible make sure the student uses a complete sentence when responding to the questions. Such discipline will help the student learn to think clearly and logically. For example:

Question. When was the first edition of A. W. Pink’s *The Sovereignty of God* published?

Answer. The first edition of *The Sovereignty of God* was published in 1918.

Reflection & Discussion

This part of the study is designed to let the student personally interact with the Mentor. While there is much freedom to respond, all responses should ultimately end within the framework of a Christian

world view and defended by the Word of God. If, upon discussion, the Mentor finds that a student's answer needs to be more biblically based, the Mentor should have the student either rewrite their answer, or add clarification to a portion of their response.

Personal Application

Practical suggestions are offered on how the material studied can be applied in life.

Scripture Memorization

The student is encouraged to memorize a verse of the Bible associated with each chapter under consideration. The chapter and verse of each biblical text memorized should be included in the recital.

Heartwork

This is a private and personal assessment of one's own heart. It does not need to be shared or discussed. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (2 Cor. 13:5).

For a successful completion of the study of *The Sovereignty of God*, each student is encouraged to read the text in its entirety, answer all questions completely in the *Study Guide*, review the material, interact with the Mentor on the personal application and reflection sections, and complete the Heartwork section with honest thoughtfulness and candor.

Key Terms, People, & Concepts

Arthur Tappan Pierson (1837–1911) was a prolific Christian writer, missionary, and American Baptist pastor. He preached over 13,000 sermons, and wrote over fifty books, one of which is mentioned by Mr. Pink, *A Spiritual Clinique* (Chapter 8).

Andrew Carnegie (1835–1919) was a Scottish-born American industrialist who found success and wealth in the steel industry. His remarkable life became a rags-to-riches-story. He died at the age of 83 on August 11, 1919, at Shadowbrook, his estate in Lenox, Massachusetts.

Andrew Fuller (1754–1815) was the founding father of the English Baptist Missionary Society. He was a strong promoter of evangelistic Calvinism. To that end, in 1785, Fuller published his *The Gospel Worthy of All Acceptation or the Obligation of Men Fully to Credit and Cordially to Approve Whatever God Makes Known*.

Approbation. This important term refers to approval, or praise. When God is pleased, there is an act of approving formally, or officially. At the baptism of Jesus, we read, “And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 3:17).

Arminianism. Arminianism is identified as a theological system that was begun by Jacobus Arminius (1560–1609), a Dutch pastor and theologian. There are five main tenets of Arminianism: God elects or reproves, on the basis of foreseen faith, or unbelief; Christ died for all men and for every man, although only believers are saved; Man is so

depraved that divine grace is necessary unto faith or any good deed; This grace may be resisted; and, Whether all who are truly regenerate will certainly persevere in the faith is a point which needs further investigation (Matt Slick, President and Founder of the Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry).

Augustine of Hippo (AD 364–430), was a philosopher and theologian who has had a profound influence on both Catholic and Protestant theology. A prolific writer, Augustine is best known for his *Confessions*, a startlingly honest personal account of his life, and *City of God*, written to comfort Christians, and explain the fall of Rome by the Visigoths in AD 410. Augustine expounded on the ideas of predestination, the visible and invisible Church, the doctrine of a just war, the way of peace.

Dark Ages. This pejorative misnomer refers to the Middle Ages in Western Civilization, c. AD 500 to AD 1500. In the 1330's a man named Petrarch wrote a book comparing the current culture with that of the ancient Greeks and Romans. He believed his own time period to be inferior. However, this was the era of Scholasticism, Machiavelli, Michelangelo, Raphael, Copernicus, and Columbus. The Western World was alive with art and literature, court intrigue and political upheaval, the discovery of new worlds, and the pangs of rebirth of learning.

Epicureans. Epicureanism refers to a Greek philosophy attributed to Epicurus (341–270 BC). Epicurus taught that the highest state a person could achieve was peace and tranquility of mind. People were to relax and enjoy life without undue worry. A popular misunderstanding of Epicureanism is associated with decadent luxury and indulgence.

Eternal Election, is that eternal, sovereign, unconditional, particular, and immutable act of God, whereby he selected some from among all mankind, and of every nation under heaven, to be redeemed and everlastingly saved by Christ (*Buck's Theological Dictionary*). "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” (Eph. 1:4). “But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth” (2 Thess. 2:13). “Eternal Election is God’s predestination of some to salvation, and others to destruction” (John Calvin).

Frederick William (F. W.) Grant (1834–1902), was an English Brethren biblical scholar, renowned in Britain, Canada, and the United States, for his studies in the structural and numerical form and content of Scripture reflected in *The Numerical Bible*.

Free Will refers to that faculty of the soul which can chose, or refuse that which is offered to it. Theologians are divided whether or not the free will of man to do any spiritual good in the sight of God was only diminished, or totally lost in the Fall.

Hyper-Calvinism. “A simple definition is this: hyper-Calvinism is the belief that God saves the elect through His sovereign will with little or no use of the methods of bringing about salvation (such as evangelism, preaching, and prayer for the lost). To an unbiblical fault, the hyper-Calvinist over-emphasizes God's sovereignty and under-emphasizes man's responsibility in the work of salvation. An obvious ramification of hyper-Calvinism is that it suppresses any desire to evangelize the lost” (web: GotQuestions).

I. C. Herendeen, was a seller of Christian books in Swengel, Pennsylvania. He was greatly influenced by Arthur W. Pink, and became the first to publish Pinks book, *The Sovereignty of God*, in 1918. Mr. Herendeen was also influential in bringing two brothers from Pennsylvania to an understanding of the doctrines of grace. One of them, Ernie Reisinger, was later to become a key leader in the founding of the first Reformed Baptist Church in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Herendeen wrote the introduction to the 1949 release of *The Sovereignty of God*. [reformedperspectives.org]

John Bunyan (1628–1688), was an English writer, and Baptist Puritan preacher. He is best known for *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

John Calvin (1509–1564), was a French Protestant reformer whose work, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, set forth a distinctive “Reformed” theology which emphasized man’s total inability to save himself, God’s unconditional election to salvation, a definite atoning work of Christ, the irresistible grace of God in applying redemption to the elect, and their total perseverance in the faith, and preservation by God.

Johnathan Edwards (1703–1758), was a prominent theologian and pastor. Edwards insisted that sin was inherent antagonism against God, and that salvation was manifested in a radical change of the heart that was totally dependent upon the absolute sovereignty of God (*Who's Who in Church History*).

John Pierpont (J. P.) Morgan (1837–1913), was an important American financier and banker of industry in the United States. He promoted U.S. Steel Corporation, International Harvester, and General Electric. He and his partners held controlling interest in AT & T, Western Union, and 24 railroads.

John Gibson Paton (1824–1907), born in Scotland, was a Protestant missionary to the New Hebrides Islands of the South Pacific Ocean, east of Australia. Through many difficulties and much danger, John Paton brought Christ to the natives, along with education and liberation from “Blackbirding”, a form of slavery that involved kidnapping individuals, and forcing them to labor in New Zealand and elsewhere.

John Davison (J. D.) Rockefeller (1839–1937), was America’s first billionaire as founder of the Standard Oil Company, which dominated the old industry for many years until it was broken up with the passage of the Sherman Antitrust Acts in 1890. A devout Baptist, Rockefeller created many philanthropic institutions.

Madame Guyon (1648–1717), was a French mystic who was both well respected and hated by many in Christendom due to her promotion of Quietism, which the Roman Catholic Church, under Innocent XI, condemned as heresy. Rome believed that Jeanne-Marie Bouvier de la Motte-Guyon, and others like her, such as Miquel de Molinos, were elevating contemplation over meditation in order to have direct, immediate, and intimate fellowship with the Lord. Her book, *A Short and Easy Method of Prayer*, was condemned. In Quietism, peace and spiritual perfection is believed to be achieved by thinking of God and divine things. Contemplation is preferred over singing or praying out loud.

Modus operandi refers to a particular method of doing something.

Orthodox refers to the correct teaching, or correct doctrine, as opposed to heterodox, or “other doctrine”, which does not conform with accepted standards, or beliefs. The orthodox faith of the Christian Church is summarized in three major creeds: Apostle’s Creed, Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed.

Pelagius (c. AD 390–418), was a British theologian who advocated the freedom of the will and a life of discipline from sensual pleasures. Pelagius denied the Doctrine of Original Sin, and opposed the Doctrine of Predestination. Pelagius contended that all sin is the result of a conscious choice of evil over good, and is not rooted in an inherited sinful nature.

Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560), was the German author of the *Augsburg Confession of the Lutheran Church* (1530). He was a Reformed theologian, educator, and a friend of Martin Luther.

Precept. A general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought.

Predestination is “the decree of God, by which He has determined in Himself, what He would have to become of every individual of mankind. For they are not all created with a similar destiny: but eternal

life is foreordained for some, and eternal damnation for others. Every man, therefore, being created for one or the other of these ends, we say, he is predestinated either to life or to death” (John Calvin’s Institutes, 1536 AD, Book III, Chapter XXI entitled, “Eternal Election, or God’s Predestination of Some to Salvation and of Others to Destruction”).

Quiescent means to be in a state or period of inactivity or dormancy.

Ralph Erskine (1685–1752), was a Scottish minister, poet, and Christian song writer.

Robert Haldane (1764–1842), was a Scottish evangelist, writer, and theologian. His Exposition of the Epistle to the Romans is still highly respected, and widely read.

Reprobate. The word is used four times in the Authorized Version: Jeremiah 6:30; Romans 1:28; 2 Timothy 3:8; Titus 1:16. The Hebrew term (*ma’ac* [maw-as]); means, “to spurn; also, to disappear.” The word conveys the idea of something which is abhorred, cast away (off), contemned, despised, distained, (become) loathsome, an utterly vile person. The Greek term (*adokimos* [ad-ok’ee-mos]); means “unapproved, i.e. rejected.” By implication, worthless (literally or morally). The Doctrine of Reprobation is established in Romans 9:14–24.

Stoics. Stoicism was one of the new philosophical movements of the Hellenistic period which emphasized the need for discipline and self-control. The term “stoicism” was derived from the porch (*stoa*) in the Agora in Athens, which was decorated with mural paintings. Here, the members of this school of thought congregated to discuss how to be “stoic calm” in life.

Superman. In Chapter 13, in the Conclusion to *The Sovereignty of God*, Pink says that the term “superman” had become a common expression. The concept of “superman” refers to an idea vividly advanced in the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche (1844–1900) in *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. The “superman,” or *übermensch*, is the superior

man, who justifies the existence of the human race by mastering himself, and rejecting conventional Christian “herd morality.” He creates his own values, and demands that others follow them. George Barnard Show made the term “superman” popular in his play *Man and Superman* (1903). Nietzsche did not anticipate the German Nazis, but his idea of a “superman” was fully embraced by Adolph Hitler (1889–1945), who saw himself as such a person, and the savior of the German people.

Theosophy (lit. *theos*, God; *sophia*, wisdom) refers to a modern religious movement which embraced the teachings of the Russian, Helena Blavatsky (August 12, 1831–May 9, 1891), who combined elements of ancient Gnosticism with Neoplatonism philosophy before incorporating Christian, Buddhist, and Hindu beliefs, including reincarnation. The Theosophical Society, which was founded in the United States in 1875 to promote her beliefs, still exists. Arthur W. Pink was a Theosophist prior to his conversion to Christ. Blavatsky believed that mystical experience and doctrine were the means to attaining true spiritual insight and authority. Her major works are *Isis Unveiled* (1877), *The Secret Doctrine* (1888), *The Voice of Silence* (1889), and *Key to Theosophy* (1889).

Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225–1274), was an Italian Dominican friar, philosopher, Catholic priest, and Doctor of the Church. He was an excellent scholar, and proponent of natural theology, and the father of Thomism, a theological construct which argues that reason is found in God.

Thomas Manton (1620–1677) was an English Puritan minister, who was a councilman to the Westminster Assembly, and chaplain to Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658), Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland.

Willy-Nilly. This phrase dates back c. AD 1000 with the earliest known version being the Old English text, Aelfric’s *Lives of Saints*.

Shakespeare was familiar with the phrase, meaning “whether you like it or not” (*The Taming of the Shrew*, 1596).

Foreword

Review

1. Why did A. W. Pink refrain from quoting historical Christian luminaries?

The author purposely refrained from quoting freely from deeply taught theologians, because he desired that the faith of his readers should stand not in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

2. What is the general trend of modern theology?

The trend of modern theology is toward the deification of the creature, rather than the glorification of the Creator.

3. What two Biblical doctrines regarding the real condition of Adam's fallen children are largely rejected today in the Church?

- *First, the condition of the sinner being entirely hopeless is rejected.*
- *Second, the belief in the absolute sovereignty of God is rejected.*

4. What should be said about those who use the contemptuous epithet, "Hyper-Calvinism"?

It has been said that "Denunciation is the last resort of a defeated opponent."

5. In June, 1918, what did Pink say he would be grateful for?

If the joy and comfort which came to the author while penning these pages are shared by those who may scan them, then Pink declared he would be thankful.

6. When was the Foreword to the Second Edition written?

The Foreword to the Second Edition was written in 1921.

7. What specific criticism did Pink respond to in the Second Edition of his book on The Sovereignty of God?

Pink responded to the criticism that his treatment of the Sovereignty of God was too extreme and one-sided.

8. What changes were made in the Second Edition?

Some of the material was re-arranged, but the substance and doctrine of the First Edition remained unchanged.

9. When was the Foreword to the Third Edition written?

The year was 1929.

10. What was Pink's assessment of the world in 1929, eleven years after first publishing, *The Sovereignty of God*?

Pink did not believe society had improved following World War I. In his view, "the darkness deepens and the pretensions of men are taking on an ever-increasing blatancy."

11. What did I. C. Herendeen note in 1949 in his Foreword to the Fourth Edition about the teaching of Pink's book, *The Sovereignty of God*?

Mr. Herendeen noted that The Sovereignty of God "runs directly counter to much that is being promulgated on every hand today."

Reflection & Discussion

1. Is it good to furnish proof-texts for every statement advanced in a religious argument? Why?
2. Discuss some results of Rationalism and Darwinism.

Consider.

Rationalism is the theory, or belief, that opinions and actions should be based on reason and knowledge. That is not wrong if religious belief is not dismissed. Only fools say in their hearts, "There is no God" (Ps. 14:1). Rationalism, without moral restraint, will lead people to believe that mankind began to ascend from some primordial soup about four billion years ago, which is the basis of Darwinism.

Rationalism, without moral restraint, will lead to abortion, enslavement, and infanticide. When Darwinian principles are applied to society, as the Nazis did, there is the survival of the fittest, and the idea that might makes right. More than fifty million people perished during World War II under the evil of Rationalism and Darwinism.

3. Why is it easy for modern Christians to have a superficial knowledge of the Bible and theology?
4. Why is approximately 95 per cent of the religious literature devoted to setting forth the duties and obligations of men?

5. Answer the following question. “Which is the more to be deplored—an over emphasizing of the human side, and an insufficient emphasis on the Divine side, or, an over emphasizing of the Divine side, and an insufficient emphasis on the human side?”

Personal Application

1. Be careful not to abuse using a proof text to support a theological position by taking the text out of context.
2. Remember when presenting the Doctrines of Grace that “a man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven” (John 3:27).
3. The remedy for imbalance on any point of doctrinal interest is to present the whole counsel of God. Preach and teach for the “balance of Truth.”
4. Read the history of the twentieth century in order to consider the time frame in which Pink wrote his, *The Sovereignty of God*.

Consider.

In June 1918, World War I was still raging in Europe. As Pink noted, “Thrones are creaking and tottering, ancient dynasties are being overturned.” The Armistice of November 11, 1918 that ended the fighting on land, sea, and air between the Allies and Germany, was still several months away. People were wondering, “Where is God in the midst of the military, political, and social madness?”

In 1921, the world was still reeling from the aftershocks of the Great War. The winds of the next World War were beginning to blow, for in July 1921, Adolf Hitler was named leader of the Nazi Party. A few found some hope in the future. On March 4, 1921 Warren G. Harding was elected President of the United States. There was going to be a “return to normalcy.” In July 27, insulin was discovered.

However, by 1929, the world knew it was in trouble once more. On October 29, 1929, Black Tuesday hit Wall Street as investors traded some 16 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange in a single day. Billions of dollars were lost. Thousands of investors were ruined. The Great Depression would last from 1929 until America emerged during World War II.

The world was a very different place in 1949 when I. C. Herendeen wrote the Foreword to the Forth Edition. Arthur W. Pink was 63 years old, and had only three more years to live. Broken in spirit and body, Pink feverishly gave himself to writing *Studies in Scriptures* in self-imposed exile in Stomoway, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides, Scotland.

5. Never give up hope in Biblical studies. “The Holy Spirit has told us that there are in the Scriptures ‘some things hard to be understood,’ but mark it is ‘hard’, not ‘impossible!’” (A. W. Pink)

Sing and Make Melody in Your Heart to the Lord

“Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!”

—Reginald Heber

Scripture Memorization

“O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day” (Ps. 119:97).

Heartwork

1. I believe there is a body of truth once delivered to the saints as declared by Jude (verse 3).

True ____ False ____

2. I enjoy reading the biographies of other Christians.

True ____ False ____

3. I support the scientific date for evolution.

True ____ False ____

4. I believe the theory of evolution is a great falsehood.

True ____ False ____

5. I find merit in Darwinism, such as the idea of the “survival of the fittest.”

True ____ False ____

6. The ruin of man is complete and total.

True ____ False ____

7. I find theological studies boring.

True ____ False ____

8. The study of the Word of God is exciting and enriching.

True ____ False ____

9. With Charles Spurgeon, I take pride in being called a Calvinist.

True ____ False ____

Consider.

“Calvinism is the gospel, and nothing else. I do not believe we can preach the gospel, if we do not preach justification by faith, without works; nor unless we preach the sovereignty of God in His dispensation of grace; nor unless we exalt the electing, unchangeable, eternal, immutable, conquering love of Jehovah; nor do I think we can preach the gospel, unless we base it upon the special and particular redemption of His elect and chosen people which Christ wrought out upon the cross; nor can I comprehend a gospel which lets saints fall away after they are called, and suffers the children of God to be burned in the fires of damnation after having once believed in Jesus. Such a gospel I abhor” (C. H. Spurgeon).

10. I believe God is sovereign.

True ____ False ____

11. I believe man is a responsible creature.

True ____ False ____

12. I believe God works all things after the counsel of His own will.

True ____ False ____

Introduction

“Our first postulate is that because God is God, He does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases; that His great concern is the accomplishment of His own pleasure and the promotion of His own glory; that He is the Supreme Being, and therefore Sovereign of the universe.” —A. W. Pink

Review

1. What is a foundational question in studying the sovereignty of God?

“Who is regulating affairs on this earth today—God, or the Devil?”

2. How is God being relegated to the background by men?

By promoting belief in the “Laws of Nature,” God is being relegated to the background by men.

3. Throughout Christendom, what theory is held about man? What does that mean?

Throughout Christendom, the theory is held that man is “a free agent,” which means that man is “lord of his fortunes and the determiner of his destiny.”

4. What inference is given to the world when the Church teaches that God is disappointed in men, or that He desires to bless men, but they will not let Him?

The inference is given that the Devil has gained the upper hand, and that God is to be pitied rather than blamed,

5. In 1918, in what three areas did Pink call for a new examination and a new presentation concerning God?

- *God's omnipotence.*
- *God's sufficiency.*
- *God's sovereignty.*

6. True or False.

Man has a will. True X False

Man has finite power. True X False

God has a will. True X False

God has all ultimate power. True X False

God is the Law Giver who regulates
all Natural Laws that regulate the
world. True X False

7. How is man different from the beasts of the field?

Man is not ignorant of our origin, and unconscious of what is before us.

8. Why is it important to begin with the correct presuppositional principle in order to understand life?

Begin with the world as it is today, and try and work back to God, and everything will seem to show that God has no connection with the

world at all. But begin with God, and work down to the world and light, much light, is cast on the problem.

9. What is necessary in order to rest upon, and enjoy the truth of, the absolute sovereignty of God?

Faith in the goodness of God is necessary to rest in, and enjoy the absolute sovereignty of God.

10. List four common emotional responses to suffering and sin in the world.

- *There is much about suffering and sin that appalls us.*
- *There is much about suffering and sin that saddens us.*
- *There is much about suffering and sin that startles us.*
- *There is much about suffering and sin that staggers or alarms us.*

11. What is the far better and proper response when life is difficult?

Say with one of old, "I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because Thou didst it" (Ps. 39:9).

12. What is the fundamental difference between the man of faith, and the man of the world?

- *The Man of the World views life from the standpoint of time and sense, and weighs everything in the balances of his own carnal making.*
- *The Man of Faith brings in God, looks at everything from His standpoint, estimates values by spiritual standards, and views life in the light of eternity.*

13. What are seven practical spiritual results when the truth of the sovereignty of God is revealed to the believer in Scripture and embraced?

- *The heart is comforted.*
- *The soul is strengthened.*
- *The life is blessed.*
- *A spirit of worship is promoted.*
- *There is an incentive to practical godliness.*
- *Zeal for service is inspired.*
- *The human heart is humbled.*

Reflection & Discussion

1. Is there a third option to the question, “Who is regulating affairs on this earth today?”

Consider.

Secular Humanist believe that man, not God, and not the Devil, regulate affairs on this earth.

2. What do the Laws of Nature really reflect?

Consider.

The Laws of Nature reflect that the Universe is logical, and orderly, indicating intelligent design, which mandates an Intelligent Designer for “out of nothing, nothing comes.” The Laws of Nature are a testimony to the faithfulness of God, for it is in Him that we live and move, and have our being (Acts 17:28).

3. Do you believe that man is the ultimate determiner of his destiny, the master of his fate, the captain of his soul? Why?

Consider.

Invictus¹

“Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.”

—William Ernest Henley

4. Why is the Devil often blamed for the evil that proceeds from a person’s own heart?

Consider.

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man” (Mark 7:21–23).

¹ Latin for “unconquerable” or “undefeated.”

5. In 1918, Pink wrote discouraging words about the religious realm: "After nineteen centuries of Gospel preaching, Christ is still despised and rejected of men. Worse still, He (the Christ of Scripture) is proclaimed and magnified by very few. In the majority of modern pulpits, He is dishonored and disowned." Since 1918, has the Church in America improved spiritually, or has it grown worse? What about throughout the world? What is the evidence?
6. For a Christian, what does it mean to walk by faith? Provide Scriptural support.

For a Christian, to walk by faith means that our thoughts are formed, our actions regulated, our lives molded by the Holy Scriptures, for, "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

7. What has the Scriptures predicted about what can be seen and heard in society? Study 2 Timothy 4:3–4. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

Consider.

The Scriptures have predicted that people would "speak evil" of the "Only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Tim. 6:14).

8. Is it unwise, or even wicked to say, "If I were God, I would not allow this or tolerate that?" Why?

Consider.

It is both unwise and wicked to stand in judgment on God who works all things after the counsel of His own will. "Woe unto him

that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?" (Isaiah 45:9).

Personal Application

1. Answer this question honestly. "Are your thoughts, concerning this world and God's relation to it, based upon what you see? Are you walking by faith, or walking by sight?"
2. Learn to use popular, poignant, but pithy phrases, when possible, as Pink does. "Drastic diseases call for drastic remedies." "People are weary of platitudes and mere generalizations—the call is for something definite and specific." "Soothing-syrup may serve for peevish children, but an iron tonic is better suited for adults."
3. Embrace the presuppositional principle, "In the beginning God."

Sing and Make Melody in Your Heart to the Lord

"Great is the Lord,
and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God,
in the mountain of his holiness.
Beautiful for situation,
the joy of the whole earth,
is mount Zion, on the sides of the north,
the city of the great King."

—based on Psalm 48:1–2

Scripture Memorization

"The people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits" (Dan. 11:32).

Heartwork

Belief

1. I affirm that God is on the throne of the universe.

I Affirm ____

2. I affirm that the royal scepter of rulership is in God's hands.

I Affirm ____

3. I affirm that God is directing all things "after the counsel of His own will."

I Affirm ____

4. I affirm that God created all things.

I Affirm ____

5. I affirm that God is ruling and reigning over all the works of His hands.

I Affirm ____

6. I affirm that God is the "Almighty."

I Affirm ____

7. I affirm that the will of God is irreversible.

I Affirm ____

8. I affirm that God is absolute sovereign in every realm of all His vast dominions.

I Affirm ____

Behavior

9. I sometimes speak evil about those in authority.

True ____ False ____

10. I am often irreverent in my behavior.

True ____ False ____

11. I sometimes feel the spirit of lawlessness stirring in my heart.

True ____ False ____

12. When I engage in known sin, I will not be restrained.

True ____ False ____

13. I am determined that my will shall prevail.

True ____ False ____

14. I do not respect parental authority.

True ____ False ____

15. I have no respect for civic authority.

True ____ False ____

16. I refuse to “render honor to whom honor is due,” parents, spouse, government.

True ____ False ____

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God's Sovereignty Defined

Review

1. What does Pink believe to be the key to history, the interpreter of Providence, and the “warp and woof” Scripture?

Pink believes the doctrine of the sovereignty of God is the key to history, the interpreter of Providence, and the warp and woof of Scripture.

Consider.

When Mr. Pink speaks of the sovereignty of God being the “warp and woof” of Scripture, he is using an expression to speak of the underlying structure or foundation of something. This expression, used figuratively since the second half of the 1500s, refers to the threads that run lengthwise (warp) and crosswise (woof) in a woven fabric.

2. What is meant by the “sovereignty of God”?

The sovereignty of God refers to the kingship of God.

3. What does it mean to declare, and say that God is sovereign?

- *To say that God is sovereign, is to declare that God is God.*

- *To say that God is sovereign, is to say that the Most High acts according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, so that none can stay His hand, or say unto Him what doest Thou? (Dan. 4:35).*
 - *To say that God is sovereign, is to declare that He is the Almighty, the Possessor of all power in heaven and earth, so that none can defeat His counsels, thwart His purpose, or resist His will (Ps. 115:3).*
 - *To say that God is sovereign, is to declare that He is "The Governor among the nations" (Ps. 22:28), setting up kingdoms, overthrowing empires, and determining the course of dynasties as pleaseth Him best.*
 - *To say that God is sovereign is to declare that He is the "Only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Tim. 6:15).*
4. Describe some unworthy, but common, views of God?
- *God is helpless.*
 - *God is effeminate.*
 - *God commands no respect of thoughtful men.*
 - *God is the creation of maudlin sentimentality.*
 - *God is to be pitied.*
5. Provide three erroneous teachings that have left God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, in the minds of multitudes, disappointed, dissatisfied, and defeated.
- *There is the erroneous teaching that God the Father has purposed the salvation of all mankind.*
 - *There is the erroneous teaching that God the Son died with the intention of saving the whole human race.*

- *There is the erroneous teaching that God the Holy Spirit is now seeking to win the world to Christ.*

6. What idea dethrones God?

To declare that the Creator's original plan has been frustrated by sin, is to dethrone God.

7. What idea degrades God?

To suggest that God was taken by surprise in Eden, and that He is now attempting to remedy an unforeseen calamity, is to degrade the Most High.

8. What idea strips God of the attribute of Omnipotence?

To argue that man is a free moral agent and the determiner of his own destiny, is to strip God of the attribute of Omnipotence.

9. How is the sovereignty of God characterized in Scripture?

- *God's sovereignty is absolute.*
- *God's sovereignty is irresistible.*
- *God's sovereignty is infinite.*

10. What power does a potter have over the clay?

The power of the potter over the clay is absolute.

Consider.

The potter may mold the clay into whatsoever form he chooses, fashioning out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor.

11. Provide at least one illustration for each of the following truths:

- (1) God is sovereign in the delegation of His power to others.
- (2) God is sovereign in the exercise of His mercy.
- (3) God is sovereign in the exercise of His love.
- (4) God is sovereign in the exercise of His grace.

(1) God is sovereign in the delegation of His power to others, illustrated in that Methuselah outlived all other humans (Gen. 5:27), and Samson had more physical strength than most humans have ever possessed (Joshua 16:3).

(2) God is sovereign in the exercise of His mercy, illustrated in that the Lord did not extend the life of Moses when he asked for a reprieve (Deut. 3:26), but gave Hezekiah fifteen additional years to live (2 Kgs. 20:1–6).

(3) God is sovereign in the exercise of His love, illustrated in that He loved Jacob, and hated Esau (Rom. 9:13). Ephesians 1:3–5 teaches that it was in selective love God the Father predestined “us,” His chosen ones, according to His own good pleasure.

(4) God is sovereign in the exercise of His grace, illustrated in Isaac being made a child of promise, while Ishmael is cast out. Jacob is shown love and grace, while Esau is declared to be a profane person. The Pharisees and Sadducees are left in sin, while to Peter, and others, Jesus is revealed to be the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

12. Define mercy.

Mercy is that adorable attribute of God, by which He pities and relieves the wretched.

13. What is the difference between God's love of complacency and His love of compassion?

The distinction between God's love of complacency, and His love of compassion, is an invention pure and simple.