

## THE FREEDOM OF GOD

It's no secret! I love to sit out in our sunroom early in the morning and watch the sunrise. It is a constantly changing phenomenon to watch as color begins to fill the sky. As the moments pass, the hues go from deep purple to shades of blue, pink, orange and yellow. Often, there are clouds which float effortlessly across the sky as if they are on a lazy, but important, journey. There is a bird's joyful refrain, the dull hum of a train's whistle in the distance, and the restless brushing of the leaves as the trees dance to the symphonic commands of the Kansas wind. As I absorb the miraculous orchestration of the day, I am overwhelmed at the freedom and power of God.

At His direction the sun obeys with its kingly ascent! He commands and the thunder claps! He utters the word and lightning strikes! He paints the sunrise with the brush of His creative will and causes the majestic cloud to float. He whispers and the heart of the songbird is filled with its joyful, morning melody. He is the mighty Artist and Great Designer whose awesome authority is put on display for all of us to see. Amidst all of the grandeur, we realize that the magnificent display is but an infinitesimal spec of His glorious power!

Psalm 135:5-7 declares, "For I know that the Lord is great and that our Lord is above all gods (great people). Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps. He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; Who makes lightnings for the rain, Who brings forth the wind from His treasuries."

The text above reveals to us that there is a vast difference between our freedom and God's freedom. God answers to no one, He is obligated to no one, and He is indebted to no one. There are no demands placed upon Him to which He must concede. He alone is the Sovereign of the Universe.

But even God is not free to do just anything. Notice the small phrase in the passage, "Whatever the Lord pleases, He does..." You see, what God does is what pleases Him and what pleases Him is always in accordance with His perfect character. For instance, He is not free to change because, being perfect, any change could only bring about imperfection. God is also not free to sin because, as Scripture says, He hates sin. God is also not free to be unjust. That's something that should really hit home with us because it means He's not free to excuse sin, of which we are all participants.

Knowing, though, that God is free to do as He pleases is a wonderful truth. It's wonderful because we know that He was pleased to demonstrate His love toward us by giving His only Son to pay for our sins on the cross.