

**SERIES: THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD**

**TITLE:** Under Control

**SPEAKER:** Bob Marvel

**DATE:** April 4-5, 2020

*“God is in control but not controlling.” – Andy Stanley*

**WELLNESS CHECK**

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 - with 1 being “awful,” 5 being “meh/no big deal” and 10 being “sensational” - how are you personally holding up under the current “stay at home” and “social distancing mandates?”
2. Read John 16:33. In this verse, Jesus doesn't deny the fact that we will face trouble in this world. But, how does the knowledge that He has “overcome the world” influence your view of the current unknowns and “upside down world” new normal we are currently negotiating?

**UNDER CONTROL**

1. Is it hard or easy for you to be in charge? Or, not in charge? Give an example of how/where you struggle with this, especially when it comes to letting God be in charge?
2. Read 1 Chronicles 29:11-12. When you personally declare that God is sovereign, what are you actually saying? What about God's sovereignty confuses or confounds you?
3. True or False – Sometimes I want God to have sovereignty in my “world” but not in my “life.” Why? Or, why not?
4. What word or words do you think most people would use to describe a situation where all of the circumstances just fall into place? How would you define God's providence?

(OVER)

5. Read Proverbs 16:9, 21:1 and Philipians 2:13. What did C.H. Spurgeon mean when he said, "Fate is blind. Providence has eyes."
6. With Isaiah 46:9-10 in mind, does the sovereignty of God nullify human responsibility? How do you reconcile God being sovereign over all events and yet He still gives us free will?
7. What three benefits of a Sovereign God were laid out in this weekend's message? (Romans 8:28, 31-32) With these benefit in mind, how might a fresh look at God's sovereignty impact your prayer life?
8. In what ways is God's sovereignty an encouragement in your life? If it isn't already, how can you make submitting yourself with contentment to the sovereign plan of God become your natural reaction to tough times/situations?

#### MISCELLANEOUS

1. What would you like to discuss from this message that hasn't already been discussed?
2. What specific truth in this message has had the greatest impact on you? Describe how it has convicted, blessed, or motivated you?

#### PERSONAL CHALLENGE

1. In your quiet time this week, read Jude 24-25 and reflect on what a GREAT God we serve!
2. Do you know others that need to be reminded that God is in control? Pray for them. Also, comfort them with the fact that our sovereign Lord rules over every circumstance. Challenge them with the truth that God will accomplish His plans through them.

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD,  
"He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust." – Psalm 91:1-2*

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