

Bishop, you don't need to worry. ~~It~~ You don't need to sit up; I'll sit up; I'll take care of it."

A similar story was told of Martin Luther. He was very worried about conditions in Germany, about the Peasants War and the terrible difficulties that were coming. One day his wife came into the room and she was all dressed in black. Luther was shocked. He looked up and said, "Why Kate, Who died? Who are you in mourning for?" She said, "God died." He said, "What blasphemy!" Why she said, "The way you've been moping around here, I could not see any explanation except that God had died." Luther accepted the rebuke and was blessed by it. The sovereignty of God is one of the great truths of Scripture, one that can be a constant benefit and blessing to us. It is a matter to rejoice in, but a matter for us to understand reasonably as it is presented in the Westminster Confession of Faith. Not a matter which should divide us into groups disliking or opposing one another but a matter that should be a blessing and an encouragement to Christians and we should wish to share this encouragement and blessing with others. Let us pray:

We thank you for the blessing of the Scriptural teaching. We thank you that on this matter of the Reformed Faith there is so much that is clearly taught in Scripture. We thank you also that we can learn to interpret Scripture for ourselves on those points on which it is not immediately clear, and we thank you that on the many things we cannot understand we can rest in the grace of God and know that you have foreordained all things that come to pass, and also know that the liberty and contingency of second causes is not thereby destroyed but rather established. Help us as we go into the subject in later meetings to clarify our hearts on the subject in order that our lives may count for the utmost for your purpose.