

OUR SOVEREIGN
SAVIOUR

RELAY
2015



Welcome to RELAY 2015

Thanks for joining us for Relay 2015 – we hope you enjoy it!

For many Christians, the Bible's teaching on Predestination is one of the great mysteries of our faith. We wonder – does the Bible really teach this strange idea, and what exactly does it say about it? And even if we've thought about this idea for ourselves, we can be left wondering what it all means for our real lives or our ministry.

But the Bible's teaching on God's sovereignty is not given to us for our confusion. It's given for our comfort, and for our confidence. It's given to deepen our trust in God, and to shape every part of how we serve him with our lives.

Here at RELAY, we're going to explore these questions in interactive, fun and eye-opening ways. We're also going to share some great food and have time to socialise together. We hope you have a great time this weekend. If you have questions or there is anything we can do to make this weekend even better, don't hesitate to let us know.

The CU Staff Team

Timetable

Friday, September 11

- 6pm BBQ Dinner and Dessert
- 7.30pm Session 1: God's Sovereignty over All Things
- 9pm Supper

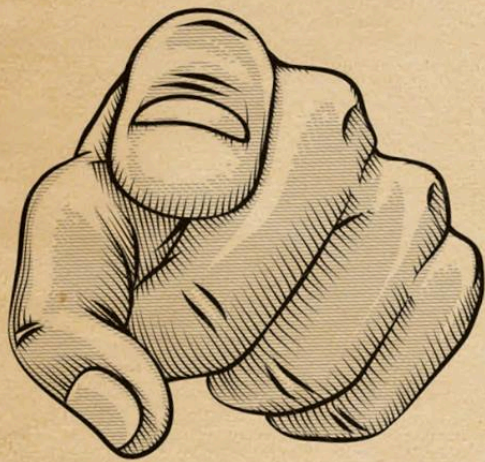
Saturday, September 12

- 9am Session 2: God's Sovereignty and Our Salvation
- 10.30am Morning Tea
- 11am Session 3: God's Sovereignty and God's Glory
- 12.30pm Lunch (BYO)
- 1.15pm Afternoon Socials and Free Time
- 6pm Dinner and Dessert
- 7.30pm International Mission Night
- 9pm Supper

Sunday, September 13

- 8.30am The Big Breakfast
- 9.30am Session 4: God's Sovereignty, Human Responsibility
- 11am Morning Tea
- 11.25am Session 5: God's Sovereignty and Our Priorities

**CARE TO JOIN US?
YES, YOU!**



This will be YOUR conference designed to help you grow in your Christian life and in your ability to bring the gospel to your friends and your campus. So we want your input right from the start.

Send your suggestions for what we can name our new conference to ucchristianunion@gmail.com.

Send as many ideas as you like. The exec and staff will select the best entries, and all CU members will be able to vote for the final name.

**HELP US FIND
THE PERFECT
NAME FOR THE**



christianunion
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

CONFERENCE
2016

**SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 8-12, 2016
BLUE SKIES CONFERENCE CENTRE, KAIAPOI
REGO: \$160, FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION**

Session 1 – God’s Sovereignty over All Things

We need a revolution

Revelation, not speculation (Deuteronomy 29:29)

Philosophy and intellectual games

Faith and the limits of knowledge

The extent of God’s power

- Spend a few minutes in your groups talking about the topic of God’s sovereignty: What have you been taught about it in the past? (It may be nothing!) In a few words, how would you sum up what you think the Bible says about this topic? What questions would you really like to have answered this weekend?

- In your groups, look up the following passages. What do they teach about the extent of things that God is sovereign over?

Passage	Notes
Exodus 3:21	
Exodus 7:3, 14:4	
Exodus 14:21	
1 Samuel 2:6-8	
1 Samuel 16:14-16	
Job 1:12, 2:6	
Job 1:21	
Ezra 7:27-28	
Psalms 47:7-9	
Psalms 50:9-11	
Psalms 103:19-22	
Psalms 104:14, 27-30	
Psalms 115:3	
Psalms 135:6-7	
Psalms 139 (esp. v. 16)	
Psalms 148:7-8	
Proverbs 16:9	
Proverbs 16:33	
Proverbs 21:1 (ESV)	
Isaiah 28:23-29	
Isaiah 40:15-17	
Isaiah 45:7	
Isaiah 46:9-11	
Lamentations 3:37-38	

Daniel 2:20-21	
Daniel 4:34-35	
Jonah 1:7	
Matthew 5:45	
Matthew 6:25-30	
Matthew 10:29-30	
Acts 17:26	
Colossians 1:15-17	
Hebrews 1:3	

- Based on these passages, how would you summarise the extent of God's sovereignty?

- Make a note of any questions you have as a result of reading these passages.

Summarising God's sovereignty

Responding to the sovereign God: awe and praise

Comfort in the face of disaster

The God who doesn't need us

Psalm 8 – “What is man, that you are mindful of him...?”

Your God is Too Small

Session 2 – God’s Sovereignty and Our Salvation

- How did you become a Christian? (If you’re not a Christian, where are you up to in considering the claims of Jesus and the Bible?)
- Can a Christian fall away? Is it possible to be a Christian, and then stop being a Christian?

Monergism or Synergism?

- In your groups, look up the following passages. What do they teach about God’s involvement in the salvation of his people? What do these passages teach about the attitude that human beings have towards God when we are left to our own devices?

Passage	Notes
Deuteronomy 4:37-39	
Deuteronomy 7:6-9	
Deuteronomy 10:14-15	
Deuteronomy 14:2	
Isaiah 29:10	

Isaiah 43:1, 44:1-2	
Isaiah 55:11	
Jeremiah 17:9	
Jeremiah 32:40	
Ezekiel 20:5	
Matthew 26:52-54	
John 3:1-8	
John 6:37-39	
John 6:44	
John 10:25-29	
John 15:16	
John 18:4	
Acts 5:31	
Acts 9:1-16 (esp. v. 15)	
Acts 13:48	
Acts 16:14	
Romans 3:10-18	
Romans 8:7	
Romans 8:28-30	
Romans 8:31-39	
1 Corinthians 1:8-9	
1 Corinthians 1:26-31	
1 Corinthians 2:14	
2 Corinthians 4:1-6	
Ephesians 1:3-10	
Ephesians 1:11-14	

Ephesians 2:1-3	
Ephesians 2:4-9	
Philippians 1:6	
2 Thessalonians 2:13	
Titus 3:5-7	
1 Peter 2:8	

- Based on these passages, how would you summarise the extent of God's sovereignty in our salvation?
- Make a note of any questions you have as a result of reading these passages.

Summarising God's sovereignty and our salvation

Sweet, pleasant and unspeakable comfort

What becomes of our boasting? (Rom 3:27; 1 Cor 1:31, Eph 2:9)

Perseverance in evangelism (Acts 18:9-10)

Renounce secret, underhanded ways (2 Cor 4:2)

Asking the right question: Am I...?

Session 3 – God’s Sovereignty and God’s Glory

- In groups of six, hold a very short mini-debate around this topic: Did God know that ‘the Fall’ (Adam and Eve’s act of sin in Genesis 3) was going to happen? Have one side take the affirmative (yes, he knew), and one the negative (no, he didn’t know). Very briefly explain why your side might be right, and explain any negative consequences if the other side were right.

The revolution continues

Exodus and Pharaoh’s hard heart

God’s glory in the OT: Deut 7:6-9; 2 Sam 7:23; 2 Kings 19:34; Isaiah 43:6-7; Isaiah 48:9-11; Jeremiah 13:11; Psalm 106:7-8; Habakkuk 2:14.

God's glory in the NT: Matthew 5:16; John 17:1; Romans 3:25-26;
Ephesians 1:6.

- Read through Romans 9:1-29 together in small groups. Draw a diagram to show Paul's main points and the flow of logic. What points does he make about God, and about why God does things? What questions does all this raise for you?

Romans 9: In defence of God

Revelation 19: Hallelujah! His judgments are true and just

The egomaniacal God?

Examining our motives

“In order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 4:11)

Revelation 4-5: Praising God for eternity

Friday & Saturday Reflections

Something that has struck me or something that I've learned so far:

A question that I would like to ponder more:

Something that I would like to pray for (or about) as a result:

Something that I would like to do as a result:

International Mission Night

Bible Talk: Mark Santich

Snapshots from World Assembly: Geoff Robson

Session 4 – God’s Sovereignty and Human Responsibility

The importance of paradox

Character is king (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1)

- In groups, look up the following passages. What do they say about human responsibility (especially alongside God’s sovereignty)?

Passage	Notes
Genesis 50:18-20	
Joshua 24:14-15	
Leviticus 20:7-8	
Deuteronomy 30:15-20	
1 Kings 11:11-13	
Matthew 11:25-30	
Mark 14:17-21	
John 3:18-19 (see 3:1-8)	
John 6:37-40	
Acts 4:23-31	
Acts 18:9-10	
Rom 10:9-11 (see ch. 9)	

Eph 2:1-10 (esp. v. 10)	
Philippians 2:12-13	
Colossians 1:28-29	
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24	
2 Thessalonians 2:11-12	
2 Peter 1:10	

- A friend asks: “You’re a Christian, right? So which is it – is God in control, or do we have free will?” How will you answer?
- Make a note of any questions you have as a result of reading these passages.

Compatibilism: Matt 11:25-30; Ephesians 2:1-10; Philippians 2:12-13

Toil and struggle with all ~~your~~ his energy (Col 1:28-29)

‘Compatibilism’ and evil (Genesis 50:20; Isaiah 10:5-19; Acts 2:23, Acts 4:27-28)

Heeding the warnings (Hebrews 2:1, 3:7-12, 6:4-6, 10:26-31)

Prayer and the sovereignty of God (Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 11:1-13, Luke 18:1-8; Revelation 8:1-5 – Matthew 9:38)

Compatibilism and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

Session 5 – God’s Sovereignty and Our Priorities

The times that we live in

Why are we waiting? (2 Peter 3:1-10)

How are we waiting? (2 Peter 3:11-18)

Serving our Sovereign Saviour

Him we proclaim (Col 1:28-29)

Sunday Reflections

Something that has struck me or something I've learned at RELAY:

A question that I would like to ponder more:

Something that I would like to pray for (or about) as a result:

Something that I would like to do as a result: