

On an Ocean Liner

In *Knowledge of the Holy*, minister and author A. W. Tozer attempts to reconcile the seemingly contradictory beliefs of God's sovereignty and man's free will:

An ocean liner leaves New York bound for Liverpool. Its destination has been determined by proper authorities. Nothing can change it. This is at least a faint picture of sovereignty.

On board the liner are scores of passengers. These are not in chains; neither are their activities determined for them by decree. They are completely free to move about as they will.

They eat, sleep, play, lounge about on the deck, read, talk, altogether as they please. But all the while, the great liner is carrying them steadily onward toward a predetermined port.

Both freedom and sovereignty are present here, and they do not contradict.

So it is with man's freedom and the sovereignty of God. The mighty liner of God's sovereign design keeps its steady course over the sea of history. Each man and woman has the free will to make choices upon which he or she will be judged – the principal one, which shall determine one's eternal destiny, being the acceptance or rejection of the Christ of Christmas, the cross and resurrection.

– Beecher Hunter