



“Proverbs / Wisdom for Life”
Wk. 3 The Sovereign Peace of God
By Pastor Jody May 02/20/2022

Proverbs 3:5-8, 13-20 ESV

- ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
- ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
- ⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
- ⁸ It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.

Blessed Is the One Who Finds Wisdom

- ¹³ Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and the one who gets understanding,

Proverbs 19:21 ESV

- ²¹ Many are the plans in the mind of a man,
but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

Proverbs 20:24 ESV

- A man’s steps are from the LORD;
how then can man understand his way?

Proverbs 21:1 ESV

- The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD;
he turns it wherever he will.
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Week 1 – It all started with **Trust**; we must remember to start with that every week. It’s like Algebra if you don’t start with that first lesson you will be lost while we conduct this walk-through of Proverbs. Do you Trust that God will reveal Himself to you in His Word? Do you trust that the Bible is alive and active and is a two-edged sword piercing to the division of soul and spirit (Heb. 4:12)? Do you trust that God’s Word is inerrant and sufficient and equips us for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17)? Do you trust God’s Word as the ultimate authority in your life over every outside voice to tell you what is



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man's purpose and plan for Salvation (*Sola Fide*)? Then you are in the right starting blocks.

Week 2 – By trusting in God's Word we began to learn about the dangers of Pride and that striving for humility is what is to be desired. Pride is self-absorption, it's the new religion of 'meism'. Pride is also sneaky and sneaks up on you in the form of 'superiority' or 'inferiority'. We observed that Pride always comes before a fall (Prov. 16:18), but thank God, that for His people, He does not let it destroy us but will use it to shape us into the glorious image of His Son. Are you learning your lessons yet, and if so, are you using those lessons by sharing them with your family and neighbors? I pray that you are.

[INTRO – SOVEREIGNTY]

To help us learn about Pride we did a case study on King Nebuchadnezzar, and I hope we all walked away learning from his story, hopefully not thinking we are going to fare better than Him unless God intervenes. The reason I am bringing up his name again today is because when we think about the lure of Pride and how hard it is to see and avoid, we need to see that it comes from an **incorrect understanding** about the **nature of God. Meaning, pride grows when we are under the false assumption: we call the shots in our lives, that we are in charge of our destiny, and that we are the ones charting our own course.** As Frank Sinatra once sang, "*Let the record show, I took all the blows, and did it my way.*"

Neb thought he was the savior of the world and that was why he was blessed but the truth he discovered, AFTER his fall, was that he was a vassal, a tool, an ambassador sent to discipline God's people, for a future that Neb was not even aware of. Neb had not the knowledge that King Solomon had recorded yet but if he had he would have discovered that our God is a God that is not along for the ride, He doesn't sit and wait to see how things will turn out, He doesn't react to how people live their lives, BUT He is a God that **controls ALL things**; He is Sovereign.



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Week 3 – Today we want to see what Solomon knew about God’s Sovereignty, and we want to find out how **understanding God’s Sovereignty** brings **peace** to His people’s lives. We remember Solomon's Proverbs are passed down wisdom from Jesus to help us live out the Christian life, it’s a part of the gospel. God’s Sovereignty over all things IS GOOD NEWS! **It means no matter what happens God wins meaning we win!**

Sovereignty though is a tough subject to deal with because here is what it means:

***Sovereignty of God** - The truth that God not only oversees all things but that nothing outside of what God purposes happens, therefore everything that has happened up to this point has happened the way that God wants it and everything from this point forward will happen as He wants it to. -PJ*

This church is found on this Truth that God’s Sovereign Reign (**it all happens as God wants**) is what **accomplishes** the **Gospel** not us. Everyone that will teach from this stage understands this and at least grasps the concept that if it were not for the Sovereign Grace of God and His work all would still be lost. Today what we want to do now is not have a Systematic Course on the Doctrine of God’s Providential Will but we at Highlands want to TRUST what the Bible has to say on this topic. That means it is WISE that we put down our PRIDE, fight the belief you did it your way, and allow His Word to change our lives, to bring us the Sovereign Peace of God.

1. The plans of man cannot thwart the goals of God.

Proverbs 19:21 ESV

²¹Many are the plans in the mind of a man,
but it is the **purpose** of the **LORD** that will **stand**.

I wonder how Frank Sinatra would have felt if he had come to know this truth after writing his song. Would he have added a last verse, “*Let the truth be told, because I was a stupid bloke, because it was always His way.*” When we talk about having peace in life, that peace comes a lot easier when we recognize that we have a God reigning over all things. It takes you off the hot seat of



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trying to figure out how you should fix things all the time. Pride says - *you have to negate another man's plans to fit the universe you are creating.* The correct understanding of living in the Sovereign Peace of God means *I am not working at making my own reality, I'm just living in His.*

What does it look like to keep calm in turmoil under God's Sovereign reign?

(This was written to a defeated people in captivity in Babylon.)

Isaiah 46:8-10

"8 Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you **transgressors**, 9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,

v. 9 First off, whatever measure you are trying to judge me by get over it no one fully knows me. Especially if you think that I am not in control in this matter. If you did know me well, we would not be having this conversation. (They were in captivity). Yes, you put yourself there, out of your rebellion, but I have also purposed it. (Now right here you all should start listening intently)

10 declaring the **end** from the **beginning** and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, My **counsel** shall **stand**, and I will **accomplish** all my **purpose**,

10 - *In declaring the end from the beginning and from the ancient times things not yet done...* - That is what some call foreknowledge, some say that does not necessarily mean Sovereignty. No, that just means that God knows what will be happening throughout history. It is the very next line in this verse that leads us to this morning's truth "**My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose**".

He is declaring - He is making known - that the past and future was/is accomplished by His counsel (His Wisdom and Knowledge) and the only thing that will ensure it is Himself. Things happen only by how God says it will happen.

This is great news for all of us! You see the children of Israel were transgressors, failures, **BUT GOD** was going to use them and save them



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anyway. Once He had determined to bring Salvation through His people not even their outright rebellion would keep Him from them. God uses their sin to paint a great picture of why we need Jesus so bad.

[CHALLENGE] Where have you been in your relationship with Jesus lately? Are you worshipping other gods like Israel? What are you pursuing to make you happy? What from your throne do you deem to be the right path?

Perhaps today you are sweating creating your own path in life because all you see are obstacles, but **every obstacle** in your life God **placed** there for His **goal of making** you more **like His Son**. Let’s spend some time praying about what God wants done in our lives, accepting His sovereign will, and leave the worrying about how that will happen to Him.

[WHY] Our Father was wise enough and in control of all things that even the devil could not thwart God’s design for Salvation. The murder of the Christ was not an accident or a derailing of God’s objective it was the plan! He allowed the vehemence of Satan and the sinful desires of man to place His Son on the Cross so that God’s design for a once and for all sacrifice for sin could be fulfilled. He forced the will of ultimate evil to fulfill the ultimate act of His glory. If our God can do that, do you still doubt that He can’t control inflation, immigration, and election integrity? Do you think CRT was not in His sight and caught Him sleeping? Is Russia doing anything that Neb did not do? All these things are ordained by God because they are the second part of God’s great plan to finish His job of Salvation that He started 2,000 years ago.

Now let’s shed some light on the why we should be so trusting when things look like they are in such disarray. **Why are the plans of God unable to be thwarted?**

2. The plans of man are given to him from the hand of God.

Proverbs 20:24 ESV

A man’s steps are from the LORD;
how then can man **understand** his way?



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Mankind makes its way through this world by responding to the environment, overcoming it, manipulating it, all to get ahead.

- If the leaders of this world are fearful of **climate change**, then they will **lie** about the causes of climate warming to control the situation.
- If the leaders of the world think **overpopulation** is ruining our society, they will **start organizations** like *Planned Parenthood* or *BLM* that will encourage the death of the unborn.
- If the leaders of the world don't like **losing governmental control**, they will **enact executive powers** to produce authoritarian regimes.

What our so-called leaders of this world are missing is an **UNDERSTANDING** of who is actually in control.

Proverbs 16:33 - The lot is cast in the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

What does that mean? Lot is like rolling the dice. What you think is all chance God is going to make it roll a seven every time. It doesn't matter how man plans, God is controlling even the mechanisms by which people make decisions. Let me just show you where they are missing it, there are two ways that are obvious through scripture that shows God is manipulating the plans of man by his own hand:

God's Sovereignty Over Nature delivers the context.

Psalms 135:7 ESV

⁷He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth,
who makes lightnings for the rain
and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

Psalms 147: 16-18ESV

¹⁶He gives snow like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes.
¹⁷ He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs;
who can stand before his cold?
¹⁸ He sends out his word, and melts them;
he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.



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Jesus even stated:

Matthew 10: 29-30

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

God’s influence IS upon nature, and what we see as uncontrollable and chaotic God uses as His **winds of change**. We are not the cause of Climate Warming, God is. Nature and its’ seemingly unconcern of how we want to live is a direct effect of the fall, it is a curse given by God for our sin. God allows the environment to bring attention of our connectedness to His creation. He saw our rebellion before creation, planned our discipline through creation, and He’s using our response to it to bring our attention to our need of Him.

In the same way we saw God in flesh, Jesus, in the midst of a storm calm the waves, rebuke the wind, and even called a disciple out of a boat to come to Him to walk on water! **God in flesh** demonstrates the **power over nature** and even in those examples, nature is controlled to bring God glory. **TRUTH -** Sovereignty doesn’t stop at the physical realm, **it begins there**, all is under His control for His purposes. Now, here is the second way in which we see God deliver His marching orders into the hands of man.

God’s Sovereignty Over Man delivers the outcomes.

Daniel 2:21

He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;

Daniel 4:17

the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.

Psalms 33:10-11



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The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

All things from the biggest to smallest of governments, to the best laid out plans of depraved men, to the biggest inconveniences in nature like COVID, they are all under God’s thumb. These events which even effect the smallest details of your life, like supply chain crisis, rises in crime rates, vaccination mandates, increased mental depression and destabilization not only does God understand the connection between them but He is using all of that for the good of His will and for His purposes. All that man decides to do in response to this world is manipulated and controlled by God (from His hand).

The reality of what we are learning is:

3. The plans of man are controlled by the will of God.

Proverbs 21:1 ESV

The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD;
he **turns** it wherever he will.

This is not just in reference to a godly king but EVERY king. All those in governmental control are controlled by God’s will. Now, as a side note if you use that as a defense as to why you obey the government in all things, you are forgetting all the examples in scripture, PHAROH, where God controlled their will AND STILL it was expected that you rebelled because God’s will over rules all government authorities. God hardens hearts sometimes to portray His will through His church.

Let’s ask this question in our last observance of God’s Sovereignty over all of creation, **why is it this way?** So, you **cannot Boast, so you can’t FEED PRIDE...**

2 Timothy 2:24-26



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²⁴ And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may **perhaps grant them repentance** leading to a knowledge of the truth, God grants us repentance as He chooses, Salvation lies in the hands of God, He controls the will.

John 6:44

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me **draws him**. And I will raise him up on the last day.

No one comes to Jesus unless Father God sends them. John 3:16 can’t be read without the context of all of chapter 3, God draws man, by the Spirit, as His will pleases.

Matthew 11:27

All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son **chooses to reveal** him.

God reveals the Son to us and without Him we are blind. The Son alone reveals the Father to the world. God’s will IS what reveals His mysteries and glory.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is **not your own doing**; it is the **gift** of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that **no one may boast**. God gives us a gift of Faith, so that we cannot boast, so that our boasting must be in God alone. It is God’s will that we should take Pride in Him and not ourselves.

Ephesians 1:11

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been **predestined** according to the **purpose** of him who works all things according to the **counsel** of his **will**,

God works all things according to the counsel of His will -that means no one suggests things to Him, He doesn’t have advisers, no need for wise men, no need for staff, no need for research team, no need for specialists, no need for



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communication team, no need for a teleprompter, God's counsel is internal and we are not needed.

All of this Truth found in scripture is what provides the Sovereign Peace of God. It is peace because God uses all things to bring us to Jesus. God uses the pain in our lives to drive us to prayer so we may depend on Jesus more. God uses the pressure of a growing federal government to get us to pray for Jesus' return. God uses the growing stupidity of man to make us appreciate that God will fix it upon Jesus' return. All of Nature, all of the world, and all of its' good and bad events are to bring His people along in their Salvation. As the late R.C. Sproul reminded us in his famous book, *Chosen by God*:

"If there is one single molecule in this universe running around loose, totally free of God's sovereignty, then we have no guarantee that a single promise of God will ever be fulfilled." – **R.C. Sproul**

It is in this fact that Jesus was confident that He will not lose one person the Father has given to Him (John 18:9), nothing has been left to chance.... That is your rest and that is your peace, your Salvation has been mapped out all the way to the end!

Implications of the Sovereign Peace of God:

1. **Be Bold** before the throne – Ask in Jesus' name for His name to be lifted up, and you will receive. A 'no' to your specific request means God has another plan to do that. – He **can't** be **thwarted**.
2. **Be Calm** in the days of uneasiness because God is winning and has already won. The unsettledness of our world is because men fail to recognize His sovereignty. – All **plans** are **given** by God.
3. **Bank On** the sovereignty of God when it comes to sharing Jesus. People cannot reject Jesus when God does the revealing, be faithful and enjoy your testimony. – Man's plans are **under** God's **will**.



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[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that is bringing all of history to a conclusion that glorifies His son, because it is all **under His Sovereign Reign**.

Go in the name of the Son, that demonstrated God's **complete control** over this world by offering His life as a sacrifice for His people.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that **sways the hearts and mind of men**, fulfilling the great commission and securing our salvation until we get home.