

Message #57**Proverbs 16:7-9**

Dr. Klooster writes: “Divine Sovereignty and human responsibility are paradoxical and beyond human comprehension, but not contradictory. Divine sovereignty and human sovereignty are certainly contradictory, but divine sovereignty and human responsibility are not.”

In this section of Proverbs (16:1-9), the dominating theme is the sovereignty of God. God is sovereign over speech (16:1); motives (16:2); thoughts (16:3); everything (16:4); punishment (16:5); and forgiveness (16:6). God’s sovereignty is theological, but it is also very practical.

GOD IS TOTALLY SOVEREIGN OVER EVERYTHING, AND THAT TRUTH SHOULD MOVE MAN TO FEAR HIM, OBEY HIM, AND LIVE FOR HIM.

SOVEREIGN PROVERB #1 – God is totally sovereign over enemies. **16:7**

The word “enemy” is one that refers to one who is hateful toward us, an adversary. It is clear from the N.T. that no believer will ever be in total harmony with the people of this world. In fact, this environment is very hostile toward the N.T. believer. In fact, Jesus said that those who followed Him would discover their own family members would become enemies (Matt. 10:34-36). He also taught those who followed Him would be hated and persecuted in this world (John 15:18-21). Paul said those who live godly will suffer (II Tim. 3:12). This proverb does not eliminate this. The point is generally speaking, if a person pleases God, God will take care of the person’s enemies. In other words, God will bring some form of tranquility to the world of one who pleases Him. The word “pleasing” is one that means a life in which God is delighted in, satisfied in, one that God accepts.

(Way #1) - A life pleasing to God is a life of faith. Heb. 11:6

(Way #2) - A life pleasing to God is not a life of carnality. Rom. 8:5-8

(Way #3) - A life pleasing to God is a life of defending truth. Gal. 1:10

(Way #4) - A life pleasing to God is a life of growth in knowledge. Col. 1:9-10

(Way #5) - A life pleasing to God is a life of praise. Heb. 13:15

(Way #6) - A life pleasing to God is a life of doing good. Heb. 13:16a

(Way #7) - A life pleasing to God is a life of sharing. Heb. 13:16b

SOVEREIGN PROVERB #2 – Righteousness is more valuable than great wealth. **16:8**

What we have is not nearly as important as what we are or believe.

SOVEREIGN PROVERB #3 – God is totally sovereign over our life. **16:9**

The word “direct” means God sets up and directs in the sense of turning one’s mind in the way He wants. Man can plan and ponder, but it is God who has the final say in the matter.

God is not some abstract God who controls us like a robot, but He is a sovereign, personal God whose sovereignty does affect every area of our lives. If we will acknowledge Him in all our ways, He will direct our paths.