

Message #88

Proverbs 21:30-22:2

It was Basil the Great who said, "...fortune and chance are pagan terms, with whose significance the minds of the godly ought not to be occupied. For if every success is God's blessing and calamity and adversity his curse, no place now remains in human affairs for fortune or chance."

WISE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY IN ALL THINGS AND MAINTAIN ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS THAT REFLECT THAT RECOGNITION.

Wise people live lives with a constant realization that God is completely sovereign over everything.

FACT #1 – Wise people recognize God is sovereign over wise counsel. **21:30**

This is a tricky proverb because of the thrice repeated "there is no" no wisdom, no understanding and no counsel. The repetition of the word three times suggests Solomon is quite emphatic that there is no wisdom, no understanding, and no counsel that will ever be gained against God. Therein lies the problem—what does that mean? Three points:

- 1) There is no counsel that can ever come at any time, place or from anyone that will ever beat God.
- 2) There is no obtaining of true wisdom, understanding and counsel apart from God.
- 3) All wisdom, understanding and counsel against God are nothing.

FACT #2 – Wise people recognize God is sovereign over battles. **21:31**

Horses in Solomon's day were considered to be a symbol of military strength and power. In fact, according to Isaiah 31:1-3, it was very foolish thinking to place a great deal of confidence in chariots and horses. Solomon's point is men may do external things in preparing to go to war such as getting the horse in shape and getting the chariots ready, but safety and victory are determined by God.

FACT #3 – Wise people recognize God is sovereign over objectives. **22:1**

Now of course the one who determines whether or not one has a good name is God. The "name" of an individual has to do with letters which designate a name, but it also has to do with reputation. To have God classify a person as having a good name is far more valuable than having great financial wealth.

FACT #4 – Wise people recognize God is sovereign over life. **22:2**

Over and over again the Bible says God created/made man (Gen. 1:26-27; Job 31:15; 34:19; Prov. 14:13). In many of these references the stress is on the fact that He specifically made people rich and poor. What this means is that all people are very valuable.