

Its Every Decision Is from the Lord

Proverbs 16

1. GOD WILL SET IT RIGHT: The problem of _____ is answered, in part, by the _____ that God will set the world right.

The LORD has made everything for its purpose,
 even the wicked for the day of trouble.
 Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD;
 be assured, he will not go unpunished. (16:4-5)

- a. “Even the wicked” are in some mysterious way located within God’s _____. This is mysterious, but it is also good news, for it means that God is able to definitively _____.
- b. This confidence that God would defeat evil reveals the Wisdom of God by which the world was made – the eternal Word, *Logos*, Son, *arche* (John 1:1) – who has summed up all things in his person, _____, and resurrection (Colossians 1:15-20).
- c. Philosophical tangent: perhaps what our culture most urgently needs to hear is the radical notion that “everything” has a “purpose” (16:4). Things have a created givenness, a knowable teleology. We are not absolutely free and autonomous individuals, creating an identity of our own choosing, contrary to the ideologies of both the right and the left. Rather, we have a created purpose and vocation. Flourishing is found in living *with the grain* of that vocation.

2. SOME HIGHLIGHTS: Not going to try to relate all of these, but let’s note a few highlights....

- a. Honest and honorable _____ and business are created goods in which God _____.

A just balance and scales are the LORD’s;
 all the weights in the bag are his work. (16:11; cf. 11:1)

- b. Wisdom is found in recognizing that some goods are _____ other goods (16:8, 16, 19).
- c. Gray hair is often a sign of _____ gained over time (16:31). ...though not necessarily, since its glory is “gained in a righteous life.” There is a kind of respect that, even in age, must be _____.

3. FROM THE LORD: God is sovereign not only over the created order but also over _____.

The lot is cast into the lap,
 but its every decision is from the LORD. (16:33)

- a. The LORD remains sovereignly and mysteriously in control of _____ of his creation, including that which seems most _____.
- b. Especially human planning, when wise, must submit to God’s _____ (16:1-3, 9).

¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— ¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” (James 4:13-15)

- c. Therefore, “commit your work to the LORD” (16:3): in prayer, in humility, in bold _____, in contentedly _____.
- d. And “do not be anxious” (Matthew 6:25-34). When your life efforts are directed toward the kingdom of God above all else, then they _____.