

- I. Session 28: The Sovereignty of God Part 4: The universal scope of His control part 3
- a. Purpose: In this lesson we will continue to see the universal scope of God's control specifically over individual lives.
  - b. Biblical Teaching
    - i. Everything we have study thus far should incline us to believe that God's universal control extends to that of individual human beings.
      1. The last two lessons we looked at the universal scope of God's control specifically over:
        - a. Inanimate things (creation)
        - b. Animals (living creatures)
        - c. Human history
        - d. Angels
        - e. Demons
      2. If there are things stronger than individual human beings that God does exercise control over (angels, demons and certain animals) we shouldn't be surprised to find God can control individual human lives.
      3. In order for God to be in control of human history He must be able to control the smaller affairs of individual lives.
      4. If the parts of who we are can be controlled by God (we are living creatures, we are made up of biochemical properties from God's creation) we should not be surprised He can control the sum of the parts of who we are, that is, us as human persons.
    - ii. "*The plans of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.*" (**Proverbs 16:1**)
      1. Here we see Hebrew poetry of two lines called Parallelism.
      2. It is contrastive with the content of man's heart ("*The plans of the heart*") belonging to man contrast with man's "*answer of the tongue*" source is "*from the Lord.*"
      3. God control man's tongues.
      4. A good example of **Proverbs 16:1** illustrated in Scripture is Balaam's intent to curse Israel ended up being pronounced blessings to Israel from **Numbers 22** and following.
      5. While the heart of a man belongs to man, nevertheless as we shall see, God is still in control over man's heart.
    - iii. "*Many plans are in a man's heart, But the counsel of the Lord will stand.*" (**Proverbs 19:21**)
      1. Here is another Hebrew poetry of two lines.
      2. It is a contrastive parallelism.
      3. First line makes an observation about man's heart: "*Many plans are in a man's heart*"
      4. Second line shows God's plan is sovereign over man's plans: "*But the counsel of the Lord will stand.*"

- iv. *"The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes."* (**Proverbs 21:1**)
    - 1. Here is another Hebrew poetry of two lines.
    - 2. This time the second line expands on the point of the first line.
    - 3. Among men, the most powerful is probably kings.
    - 4. Yet God says a *"king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord"*
    - 5. Elaborating the point the author of Proverbs adds *"He turns it wherever He wishes."*
  - v. *"The mind of man plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps."* (**Proverbs 16:9**)
    - 1. Here is another Hebrew poetry of two lines.
    - 2. It is a contrastive parallelism.
    - 3. First line makes an observation that: *"The mind of man plans his way"*
    - 4. Yet God is the One in control since *"the Lord directs his steps."*
  - vi. Is God sovereign over man's disability?
    - 1. *"The Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?"* (**Exodus 4:11**)
      - a. In context this is God's reply to Moses' complaint that he can't speak.
      - b. Notice here that God in a rhetorical question says disabilities such as *"mute or deaf, ...or blind"* was made by Him.
      - c. To reinforce this point notice God asks *"Who has made man's mouth?"* and *"Is it not I, the Lord?"*
    - 2. *"As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him."* (**John 9:1-3**)
      - a. Notice the wrong view the disciples of Jesus had concerning the source of disability (**John 9:2**).
      - b. Jesus correction: *"It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him"* (**John 9:1-3**).
  - vii. You might have a lot of questions about God's sovereignty which hopefully we will explore in the next few sessions but for now we want to establish that God is Sovereign over individuals human lives.
- c. Implications
- i. If God is in control of our individual lives, we can pray for God to change us!
  - ii. If God is in control of our individual lives, we can pray for God to change others!

- iii. We should be humble about our plans and goals. Note, in a future session we will discuss more about the role of human responsibility in light of God' sovereignty and decision making.
- iv. We should have a change view concerning people's disabilities.
- v. Praise God for His Sovereignty of our Salvation: "*But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" (Romans 8:37-39)