

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 4

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Proverbs 19:21

Related Passages: 16:1; 16:4; 16:9;
16:33; 20:24; 21:1; 21:30-31

Sermon Date: Oct. 21, 2007

The LORD is completely sovereign. His purposes always prevail.

Imagine for a moment that you loved to play basketball and decided to join the “Y” so that you could play in a “pickup” league. The day comes for you to play and you go to the “Y” and find out that you are going to play on a team with Michael Jordan. Needless to say, you would never lose a game nor do you expect that you ever will.

That is what it is like with God. He never loses. His purposes always prevail. That knowledge that God will always prevail is why Paul in Romans 8:31 writes to us—“If God is for us, who can be against us?” In this study, we are going to look deeper into what it means to have a sovereign God and how that should influence our thoughts, plans and actions.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have.

The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p data-bbox="121 380 512 435">Proverbs 19:21 Memory Verse (NIV)</p> <p data-bbox="100 461 520 555">19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.</p> <p data-bbox="100 675 520 769">16:1 To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the reply of the tongue.</p> <p data-bbox="100 889 520 984">16:4 The LORD works out everything for his own ends—even the wicked for a day of disaster.</p> <p data-bbox="100 1104 520 1198">16:9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.</p> <p data-bbox="100 1318 520 1380">16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p data-bbox="1136 186 1549 280">20:24 A man's steps are directed by the LORD. How then can anyone understand his own way?</p> <p data-bbox="1136 521 1556 615">21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.</p> <p data-bbox="1136 885 1541 1040">21:30—31 There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD. The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the LORD.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father,? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **Sins to avoid**
- ◆ **Promises to believe**
- ◆ **Examples to follow** (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **Commands to obey**
- ◆ **Knowledge to share**

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. The theme of this weeks text uses the words, "The LORD is completely sovereign, His purposes always prevail." Proverbs 19:21 says "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails." What do you think is the LORD's purpose? Look up Ephesians 3:10-11 and Romans 8:28 and describe the Lord's purpose below.
5. What is our role in fulfilling the LORD's purpose? What does it take on our part to carry out the purpose of the LORD? (See Romans 8:28)
6. What words are found in all three of the following verses - 16:1, 16:9 and 19:21? With a sovereign God whose purpose always prevails, should we or why should we make plans for ourselves, our families, our church? (See Proverbs 15:22; 16:3, and Psalm 33:10-11)
7. What is it about our plans that would make them acceptable to God? (See Proverbs 16:3).
8. Proverbs 16:9 and 20:24 tell us that the LORD determines our steps. When have you made plans for yourself and the LORD worked out a completely different plan? Or have you experienced the LORD's direction in your life so clearly that you knew the LORD determined your steps. (See Acts 16:6-7 for the LORD's direction for Paul and Silas).
9. James 4:13-16 warns us about making plans for our lives without involving the LORD in them. How does this tie into the plans for the church's expansion program?
10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 19:21

Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

The study of our sovereign LORD here in Proverbs reminds me of a book that I read some time ago that had the simple title of "What would Jesus do". The book was about a small church congregation that decided to conduct themselves in all of their affairs by first asking themselves before making a decision or taking any action, the simple question of "what would Jesus do if he had to do this ". Can you imagine what the world would be like if every Christian made this simple action their way of living. A sovereign God, to put it in the vernacular, always wins, every time. Wouldn't you like to be on the winning side that never loses. You can by just accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and submitting your life to him on a daily basis just as we have been discussing here in this study. When our will is aligned with God's will, God blesses our plans and our lives.

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com***

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