
Sermon Text Discussion 5/28/17

Proverbs – “Our Planning and God’s Providence” by Drew Hunter

Overview

This sermon considered the topic of our planning and God’s providence. How do we wisely make decisions and plan for our future, when we also know that God is sovereign over our decisions and our future. Proverbs affirms that both are true – we are to be wise planners in life, and that God’s plans are what ultimately happen. This is a mystery, and Proverbs brings it up over and over again. Acknowledging this tension, and learning to live in light of it – is essential for living wisely. The sermon followed this outline:

- 1) Finding true wisdom for our plans
- 2) Trusting God’s wisdom in His Plans
- 3) How do these fit together?

Quotations

God’s providence refers to how he carries out his plans in all circumstances. Here’s how J.I. Packer defined it: “The unceasing activity of the creator, whereby, in overflowing bounty and goodwill, he upholds his creatures in ordered existence, guides and governs all events, circumstance, and free acts of angels and men, and directs everything to its appointed goal.”

“A man may plan his road to the last detail, but he cannot implement his planning, unless it coincides with Yahweh’s plan for him. He is deluded if he supposes that he has unfettered control and can impose his will on every situation without limitation in order to make his plan a reality.” -- McKane

Genesis 50:20: “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.” This is referring to one event: the sinful betrayal of Joseph. His brothers hated him, betrayed him, and sold him into slavery. They meant it for evil. But notice, Joseph didn’t say, “you meant it for evil, but God used it for good.” He said, “you meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.” God didn’t just clean up their mess; he stood behind it. God was mysteriously working in and through that even. He ordained it and had a good purpose through it. -- Hunter

Understanding & Application

- 1) Proverbs says planning is important, however proverbs distinguishes between certain kinds of planning. Some planning is wise, and some is not. Discuss the elements of wise planning.
- 2) Why is humility such an important concept as it relates to wisdom?
- 3) Interact with this statement from the Sermon: “We are responsible for every choice we make. God’s sovereignty over our choices never takes away our responsibility for our choices. Proverbs holds together God’s sovereignty and our responsibility. Our steps are from him, but we are responsible for our steps. The Bible presents both of these truths and holds them together.”
- 4) Discuss what it means that we have free will. How are our choices real and significant? How does our free will differ from God’s free will?
- 5) How does Proverbs teaching on our actions and God’s plans ultimately bring about comfort and security for the believer?
- 6) How do we plan in light of God’s plans?