

LESSON 195

Egermeier's Story: None

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding." NASB

Object Lesson:

The Bible is full of instances of God's sovereignty over events in the lives of men. The birth of Jesus and the life of Joseph are two prime examples. A brief review of these stories to see how the sinful acts of men are used to bring about God's plan may be helpful.

Doctrinal Emphasis: God Is Sovereign

Key Theme: God is in control of seemingly random events in our lives.

We have reached a stage in the ministry of Paul where we can examine God's control over events in his life. We can also learn how reliance on God's promises can give us an inner peace; whereas if we focus on the external circumstances, there will be cause for much anxiety.

We will soon learn that it was God's will that Paul make it safely to Rome. God uses the actions of men to bring this about. When Paul is brought up before the Roman authorities to discuss charges made against him by the Jews, Paul exercises his right as a Roman citizen to appeal to Caesar. After Agrippa hears his defense, he comments that Paul would likely have been set free had he not appealed to Caesar. This may appear on a human level that Paul has made a tactical blunder. However, we can now see that God used this as the means to get Paul to Rome.

Psalms 103:19 states God's sovereignty, "...His sovereignty rules over all." God is sovereign over man, over nations, over Satan, over history, and over sin.

Knowledge of God's attributes can have a profound effect on our lives. If we remember that God is sovereign over all, then we can be assured that a loving, omniscient, sovereign God is aware of our circumstances and is in control of them.