

The First Baptist Church of Columbus

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Sermon Notes Outline for video posted September 13, 2020

T I T L E: COMFORTED BY THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

T E X T: Ecclesiastes 3:1; Proverbs 16:4

A secular talk show host said, "A blanket of darkness has been thrown over us." This is not the way a Christian should allow himself/herself to think, especially in the context of God's sovereignty as it applies to today's culture including the present-day pandemic. Divine sovereignty extends to all things. Nothing happens, for good or ill, apart from the rule of God, who has a purpose for everything that He creates or permits.

One commentator remarks, "The first part of the verse (Prov. 16:4) highlights the fact that God is the sovereign Creator and Controller of the universe. There is nothing in this world that is the result of mere chance or happenstance. All that we see fits into God's divine design. The second part of the verse seeks to emphasize the sovereignty of God by declaring that not even the perpetrators of evil are free from His authority and jurisdiction."

Another source in my research and preparation said relative to Ecclesiastes 3:1 "Solomon emphasized that all events in life have their place in God's divine plan. "There is an appointed time for everything" (Eccl. 3:1, NASB). The idea here is that there is a divinely appointed time for all of life's experiences (see Eph. 1:11).

- I. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD ENCOURAGES US TO REMAIN CALM IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY WHILE EXERCISING A CONCERNED AWARENESS AND BEHAVIOR IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES.
 - A. The sovereignty of God encourages us not to take a Barney Fife response to difficulty.

- B. The sovereignty of God encourages us not to take a “whatever will be will be approach” to difficulty.

Do not go off the deep end. Do not panic. Do not be indifferent. A balanced approach is in order.
God is saying in today’s vernacular “I’ve got this.”

II. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD ENCOURAGES US TO FIND COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT NOTHING HAPPENS IN THIS WORLD BY CHANCE OR CIRCUMSTANCE MEANING ULTIMATELY THAT HE KNOWS WHAT’S BEST IN ALL THINGS.

There is divine purpose and/or permissiveness behind each circumstance in life, including the present-day pandemic.

I heard someone say over the radio a few weeks ago relative to the present-day pandemic that the question is not “Is God speaking? But “What is He saying?”

III. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD ENCOURAGES US TO FIND COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT WHAT APPEARS TO BE TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY TO MAN IS SIMPLY THE HAND OF GOD USING ALL THINGS TO WORK OUT THE CERTAINTY OF HIS PURPOSES. (He is in control!)

Presently, we are standing on the confusing side of the tapestry.

IV. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE IS ABSOLUTE, I.E. HE CONTROLS ALL THINGS OR CIRCUMSTANCES AT ALL TIMES BUT SUCH SOVEREIGNTY DOES NOT ELIMINATE HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY ESPECIALLY RELATIVE TO SINFUL BEHAVIOR.

Sin and mistakes take place in our lives because of our own choosing.

I cannot blame God for my sins....at least wise not successfully.

CONCLUSION: God is the great orchestrator. Things are not falling apart. They are simply falling in place. In fact, everything is falling into place. Stay cool. Look up. The King is coming. It may be today! It is difficult if not impossible for anyone, including today's secular philosophers or talk show hosts to throw a blanket of darkness over anyone with an eternal perspective. He is in control.