

CONTROL, COVID, & CONFIDENCE

Proverbs 16:1-33 • Pastor Matthew Jones

www.delreychurch.com

God's Concurrence is Spot On

(Proverbs 16:1-9, 20)

Government is Controlled by the Sovereign

(Proverbs 16:10-15)

Grace is in Christ the Savior

(Proverbs 16:2, 5-6, 25, cf. Col.2:2-3, 1 Cor.1:30)

Growth in Community from Sin

(Proverbs 16:7, 17, 27-30)

Gaining Confidence for Your Soul

(Proverbs 16:33)

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. This Sunday we studied the sixteenth chapter of the book of Proverbs. When you think about the book of Proverbs, what passages come to mind? What are some of your favorite Proverbs? How has God used this book to feed your soul?
2. The book of Proverbs is concerned with having wisdom and passing it on. In your life, who has been your most consistent teacher of wisdom? Discuss how you have learned wisdom from others and share significant lessons on wisdom that come to mind, which shaped your life for good or kept you from danger.
3. In Proverbs 16, we find wisdom sayings that expose our lives. Reread the chapter together and discuss what verses personally confront you in your thinking and/or behavior. As you reflect on how the passage exposes you, for we all fall short, make sure to tie your discussion to point 3 on the outline pertaining to Jesus. So while we fall short, Jesus is our perfect wisdom (see Col.2:2-3, 1 Cor.1:30). Discuss your failings in wisdom and Christ's victory as our wisdom for us.
4. In Proverbs 16 we are given a lesson on wisdom that is not only personal, but also communal. Having just reread the chapter for Q3, look at the text again and discuss its communal dimensions. The passage warns against those who in anger and pride intentionally separate friends through slander, spread strife, and dig up things to divide people. This is contrasted with the peaceful, humble, and righteous, whose speech is pleasant like the honeycomb. Look at the text and discuss the importance of communal wisdom in exposing those who would otherwise disrupt and divide God's people unless wisdom stands.
5. In Proverbs 16, we read strong theological statements the providence of God. Nothing is random in God's universe. According to verse 33, even the act of rolling dice produces the outcome of God. That said, for critics of our faith they would say such providence robs humanity of free will. If God is really in control—they claim—we have no free will and the universe is just a fatalistic machine. How would you respond to this objection? Discuss. For help, see: www.reformation21.org/articles/do-we-have-free-will.php ; www.desiringgod.org/interviews/is-god-sovereign-over-my-free-will and, www.ligonier.org/learn/series/chosen_by_god/what-is-free-will/. On this topic, the nonbeliever will also raise objections, specifically that if God is in control of everything, why is there so much evil? How should we respond? For help with this objection see <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-problem-of-evil/>
6. Building on Q5, how does the doctrine of concurrence—discussed in Sunday's sermon—speak to the perceived incompatibility of free will and God's sovereignty. How does concurrence works in helping us understand the providence. For further reflection, see www.monergism.com/concurrence .
7. How are you personally doing in trusting God to be in control of the madness of things in 2020-2021? Drawing our eyes off the world and the madness out there, how are you doing inside your heart and in your trust of God?