

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
April 15, 2024 | “The Lord Reigns” | **Proverbs 16:1–33**

1) The _____ of the _____
(16:1–9)

2) The _____ of the _____
(16:10–15)

3) The _____ of _____
(16:16–24)

4) The _____ of _____
(16:25–33)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 16:1–33. How many times does “the Lord” show up in this chapter? Why is the frequency so high at the beginning of the chapter? How is God’s sovereignty contrasted with mankind’s fragility in Proverbs 16? How is God’s sovereignty emphasized at the beginning (16:1–9) and the end (16:33)?

Consider the kingship language of 16:10–15. How was the king supposed to function in OT Israel? How did those kings of the OT succeed and how did they fail? Would you be willing to submit to a king like that? What kind of king can we expect to rule over us in the future?

GET PERSONAL

Read Proverbs 16:9 and 16:25. Should Christians plan their ways? Is that presumptuous? Should Christians make plans for the future? Should we save up for a car or for a house? Should we put money away for retirement? If no, why not? Read James 4:13–17 to help you with these questions. What solutions does James offer us for preventing a presumptuous arrogance?

Consider Proverbs 16:6 in light of the NT and the gospel. How is our sin (iniquity) atoned for? In what way does the fear of the Lord help us to turn from evil? Is there atonement (for sin) apart from Christ?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

How might you practically submit your ways to the Lord every day? How about committing your work to the Lord (16:3)? How might you submit your words to the Lord every day in order to make them “gracious words” (16:24)?

ADVANCED QUESTION

How do we harmonize God’s sovereignty and human responsibility? Are these compatible theological truths? What Scriptures speak to these issues? See the following “Ask Pastor John” podcast to help you think this through:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/how-does-gods-sovereignty-not-violate-our-decision-making>.

See also the video/article with Derek Thomas and others at the Ligonier website:

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/qas/how-is-gods-sovereignty-compatible-with-mans-responsibility-in-salvation>