

January 15, 2023  
La Jolla Christian Fellowship

## **Learning Curve: A Study Of Proverbs – Ep. 3 The Best Laid Plans**

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### **Proverbs 16:1-9**

To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the reply of the tongue. <sup>2</sup>

All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. <sup>4</sup> The Lord works

out everything for his own ends-- even the wicked for a day of disaster <sup>5</sup> The Lord

detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished. <sup>6</sup> Through

love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the Lord a man avoids evil. <sup>7</sup>

When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace

with him. <sup>8</sup> Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice. <sup>9</sup> In his heart

a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.

**Proverbs 16:1-9 defines the delicate balance between  
trusting our planning or our provider.**

**“The best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley.” – Robert Burns**

**Today's Question:** How do we follow God while planning for the future?

- 1. Acknowledge God's sovereignty while questioning personal motives.**
- 2. Commit everything you do to God.**
- 3. Want less.**

- 1. Acknowledge God's sovereignty while questioning personal motives.**

**Vs. 1-2** To man belong the **plans** of the heart, but from the Lord comes the reply of the tongue. <sup>2</sup> All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord.

**Our plans vs. God's reply:** The spiritually mature long for the will of God more than they pine for their desires to be fulfilled.

**“The greatness of the man's (persons) power is the measure of his surrender.”  
— William Booth**

**God's Sovereignty:** Few things offer more peace than a high value of God's sovereignty.

- **Vs. 9** In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.
  - **Proverbs 20:24** A man's steps are directed by the Lord. How then can anyone understand his own way?
  
- **Questioning your MOTIVES is a sign of humility and spiritual maturity.**
  - **Proverbs 21:2** Every man's way is right in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the hearts.
  - **Proverbs 14:12** There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.
  
- 2. **Commit everything you do to God. Vs. 3-4** Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and **your plans will succeed.** <sup>4</sup> The Lord works out everything for his own ends-- even the wicked for a day of disaster.
  - a. Committing things to God puts us in a victory mindset.
  
- 3. **Want less: Vs. 8** Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.
  - a. **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12** Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you,<sup>12</sup> so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.