

SERMON TEXT: Proverbs 16:9

Vs. 9 – In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.

- לֹב אָדָם יַחֲשֹׁב דְרָכָיו וַיְהִי ה' וַיַּחֲדֹל -

GREETING: Praise be to the Lord, Who has given rest to His people just as He promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises He gave.

The book of Proverbs, is one of three books of the Bible which are written by Solomon, the son of David. The three books of the Bible which were penned by Solomon are Proverbs –Ecclesiastes – Song of Songs / Solomon.

These words of instruction are of course coming from God Himself, through His inspired writer – Solomon. (For further study on the Verbal inspiration of Scripture see: II Peter 1:20-21)

As we hear these words of our Lord through the inspired writer Solomon, it is interesting to note that Solomon we are told (I Kings 3:12) would be the wisest person to ever live.

Not counting Jesus of course, Since Jesus is also True God.

Our text for this New Year's Eve Service tells us:

Vs. 9 – In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.

During this past year of COVID-19, the steps of many people have been diverted from what they had planned.

- People died unexpectedly from COVID-19. – Thus, leading to great emotional pain and financial hardship in families.
- Businesses were not able to function at their capacity, if at all, thus causing businesses to fail, income to be lost, resulting in people losing their homes and running short of food.
- People being stressed out more than normal.

Then added to the difficulties which resulted due to the COVID-19 virus, there was:

“Election Year stress” (Remember that God causes nations / Leaders to rise and to fall - Romans 13:1-7, Dan. 7:17; Daniel 8:1-22)

Racial Tensions” (Always remember that we all come from Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:2 – Genesis 2:25) & When Jesus died on the cross, He died for the sin of All people regardless of gender, age, race – “For God so loved the World that He gave His One and Only Son.” John 3:16)

As we think about all the turmoil that has been experienced during this past year, we might be tempted to think things such as:

- “What an unlucky year!” (From passages such as our text this evening, we know that luck has nothing to do with it. “The Lord determines the steps of mankind?)

God is in control of all things, yet on the same note: We are not fatalistic. Fatalism is false doctrine.

- “Where is God?” (“God is our ever-present help in trouble.” Ps. 46:1)
- “Is God Loving?” “For God so loved **the World** that He gave His One and Only Son.” John 3:16)
- “Why did God allow these things to happen?”

We do not have as specific of an answer for this question as we would like. BUT

What we do know is that God wants all people to be saved and to come to the Knowledge of the truth. (I Timothy 2:3-4)

God wants everyone to learn of, and believe in Jesus as their Savior from sin, death and the devil and thus spend eternity / forever in heaven.

As human beings, created by God, we simply focus on the things that we do know.

God is our Refuge and strength. (Psalm 46:1)

God sent His son Jesus into the World to make full payment for sin, defeat death and the devil, and win heaven for us. (Romans 5:8, I John 2:1-2)

God has given us His Holy Word in the Holy Bible which guides us in our daily life as we look forward to heaven in Christ Jesus. (Colossians 3:16)

We love, because God first loved us. (I John 4:19)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (Luke 10:27)
Love your neighbor as yourself.

Follow the 10 Commandments, not because by doing so will earn the forgiveness of sins and life in heaven, but because by doing so we demonstrate our love for God as we say thank you to Him in all that we say and do. (II John 1:6; John 14:15)

The Lord, according to His wisdom called home to heaven this past year:

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We thank the Lord that He brought them to faith in Jesus, and that even now they are living with the Lord Jesus. (Luke 9:28-33; Luke 23:43; Luke 16:19-31)

How many of us will have our steps diverted away from what we plan in the coming year or years?

Psalm 127:1 – “Unless the Lord builds the house, the laborers labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.”

This upcoming year, the Lord in His wisdom may call me out of this world to heaven. He may call you out of this world to heaven.

Or The Lord may grant you and I many more years upon this earth as we serve Him and His people in this world, in all that we say and do and think.

What other work has God given us to do for whatever remaining years we may have?

Listen to some of these Passages from Holy Scripture.

Go ye therefore. – Matthew 28:18-20

Encourage one another. – (I Thessalonians 4:18; I Thess. 5:11; I Thess. 5:14)

Hebrews 3:12-13 – “See to it brothers that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the Living God. But encourage one another DAILY, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. 14 – **We have come to share in Christ** if we hold firmly until the end the confidence we had at first.”

Vs. 9 – **In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.**

What a comfort, to Know that God is in Control, especially of our Heavenly Home, which is ours in Christ Jesus.
AMEN

THEME: Man Plans – The Lord Determines Our Steps.