



Sermon Discussion Questions

"Our Sovereign God, His King, and Wisdom in Relationships" (Proverbs 16-17)

November 2nd, 2025

Proverbs: The Wisdom of God as a Way of Life

Eric Bobbitt

Sermon Overview

Main Idea

In this text we turn our attention to the words that God intended His people to know and love found in Proverbs 16 and 17. Our study of Proverbs leads us to a profound answer. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." This is meant for each of us, to possess a reverent trust in the living God, that loves Him and His ways. So that His character becomes ours which forges a beautiful coherence between His intentions and design and our choices. Our character is developed through a progressive gaining of wisdom and we can flourish in God's world. Yes, experience is powerful teacher, but we need divine revelation. Truth from outside of our limited, flawed, broken perspective and understanding. A reverent trust in the Lord creates a hunger for His wisdom.

Sermon Outline

1. God is Sovereign (16: 1-9)
2. God's Righteous King (16: 10-15)
3. Relational Wisdom (16: 20-32)
4. The Wise and Foolish in Relationships (17)

Quotations

Commentator on Proverbs 16:

"Our activities and plans will be no less our own for being His, only less burdensome and better made."

Discussion Questions

Initial Engagement

- What is the main idea of the text, or what did the sermon focus on?
- What insight from the text or sermon stood out to you most? Why?



Sermon Discussion Questions

Deeper Reflection

1. Verses 1 and 9 in Prov 16 form bookends, framing our lives with God's sovereignty. The heart of a man legitimately makes plans, but the Lord decides what the future will hold. He has the final word and sets the final direction. In our freedom to plan, we discover that we are advancing God's designs. We see that God intervenes between our thoughts and actions and can direct outcomes. How do these verses inform our understanding of our individual will or ability to make choices and God's sovereignty over outcomes? If God is truly sovereign over everything, how then can we be held to account for our personal decisions?
2. Read verse 2 and verse 25 in Prov 16. What do these verses tell us about our capacity for self-deception and our true motives? How might pure motives like a life of service, strong leadership, an intense commitment to a career, or an ordered, disciplined life might actually be unrighteous, ulterior motives? Is there a way to safeguard against this?
3. Continuing the theme of authority, the next section (v10-15) introduces the king. This reveals the hierarchal structure of the universe. First, God as the ultimate Sovereign, then the king, the human sovereign. How is the Lord Jesus the truest representative of the king described in these verses? How did Jesus' life and ministry contrast with the failings of earlier kings like Saul, David, and even Solomon, the author of this text?
4. Verses 20-25 in Prov 16 reveal qualities of the wise speaker. How do the words we speak reveal what is in our hearts? What is the foundation for speaking words that are persuasive and demonstrate discernment? Find and discuss other biblical references to speech that either builds up or tears down.
5. There are several examples in Chapter 17 of fools and their destructive ways such as the liar, the briber, and the gossip. Find and discuss those examples, and how these characters spread destruction of others' lives and their own souls.

Final Response

- What is one thing you want to remember or one way you hope to change in light of this sermon or discussion?