

Living the Proverbs – Chuck Swindoll
Lesson 16: The Grind of Submission to Authority
 January 10, 2018



I. REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S LESSON (*Proverbs 1:22*)

Three kinds of Opposition to God

- Level 1: The _____
 Level 2: The _____
 Level 3: The _____

II. GOOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

1. In small groups, discuss what the following verses teach us about God's sovereignty.
 - *Proverbs 10:3 – The LORD will not let the godly go hungry, but he refuses to satisfy the craving of the wicked.*
 - *Proverbs 10:29 – The way of the LORD is a stronghold to those with integrity, but it destroys the wicked*
 - *Proverbs 16:7 – When people's lives please the LORD, even their enemies are at peace with them.*
 - *Proverbs 21:1 – The king's heart is like a stream of water directed by the LORD; he guides it wherever he pleases.*
2. **God's sovereignty over those in authority:** What do God's interactions with the world rulers listed below tell you about God's sovereignty over those in authority?
 - a. **Assyrian King** (Isaiah 10:6-7) **Lesson:**

⁶ *I am sending Assyria against a godless nation (Israel), against a people with whom I am angry....* ⁷ *But the king of Assyria will not understand that he is my tool;* ¹² *After the Lord has used the king of Assyria to accomplish his purposes...in Jerusalem, he will turn against the king of Assyria and punish him—for he is proud and arrogant.*

b. **Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 2:1-8) Lesson:**

² So (King Artaxerxes) asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled." Then I was terrified, ³ but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruin..."⁴ The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" With a prayer to the God of heaven, ⁵ I replied, "If it please the kingsend me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried."

⁶ After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request.

⁷ I also said to the king, "If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah. ⁸ And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself." And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me.

c. **King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:29-33) Lesson:**

12 months later (after Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree cut down and only a stump remained for 7 years) Nebuchadnezzar was taking a walk on the flat roof of the royal palace...³⁰ He said, 'Look at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city...to display my majestic splendor.'

³¹ "While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, 'O King Nebuchadnezzar, this message is for you! You are no longer ruler of this kingdom. ³² You will be driven from human society. You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses. ³³ "That same hour the judgment was fulfilled, and Nebuchadnezzar was driven from human society.

III. TRUST & SUBMISSION TO AUTHORITY

3. Q1. Who do you trust most in the world? _____
Q2. _____
4. Accepting God's absolute, unquestioned right to rule over you is ultimately a matter of _____.
5. What percentage of the time do you find it hard it to trust God?

0% of time 25% of time 50% of time 75% of time 100% of time
|-----|-----|-----|-----|

6. I Have a Mission (A Prayer by Cardinal John Henry Newman)

Oh My God, you have created me do some definite service. You have committed some work to me that you have not committed to another. I have my mission; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. I will trust you, whatever, wherever I am. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve you. If I am in perplexity, my perplexity may serve you.

If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve you. You do nothing in vain. You know what you are about. Though friends be taken away, though I feel desolate, though my spirits sink, though my future is hidden from me, yet I will trust you, for you know what you are about. I ask not so much to see as to be used: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

IV. DEBATE: MAN'S FREE WILL vs. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

7. The doctrine of sovereignty remains a great theological controversy:

a. **Side A:** _____

b. **Side B:** _____

8. Charles Spurgeon Quote:

Once when Spurgeon was asked if he could reconcile these two truths, he replied:
"I wouldn't try. I never reconcile friends."

Q. What did he mean?

EXTRA STUFF

- I. TRUST
- II. FREE WILL – Debate Sovereignty of God vs. Man’s Free Will
- III. GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THOSE IN AUTHORITY
 - Exodus 10:1-2 (Pharaoh)
 - Isaiah 10:5-7 (Tiglath-Pileser)
 - Isaiah 45:1-6 (Cyrus)
 - Ezra 7:21 (Artaxerxes)
 - Nehemiah 2:1-8 (Artaxerxes)

Proverbs 9:10-11 - Fear of the LORD is the foundation of wisdom.

Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

¹¹ Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life.

Proverbs 19:21 - You can make many plans, but the LORD’s purpose will prevail.

