

Just Checking In
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God's Sovereign Plan – Our Joy and Confidence

pastorron@embarqmail.com Listen to Ron's sermons online at <http://www.niemonds.org/sermons>
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It is our prayer and hope that these devotionals encourage and strengthen you in your walk with Christ and your work for Christ. He alone is worthy!

God's Sovereign Plan – Our Joy and Confidence

Isaiah 46:9-10 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying: **"My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure"**

Psalms 33:8-11 Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.

Proverbs 19:21 There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless **the LORD'S counsel-that will stand.**

The Bible declares from beginning to end that God has a perfect and unchangeable plan that will bring Him the greatest glory, and to us who are His, the greatest good. It is all encompassing and unalterable by anything in all of creation. This plan is partially revealed to us in scripture. I say "partially revealed" because it is infinite in measure and eternal in duration and we know only the magnificent parts now revealed in God's Word. Eternity will be the stage in which more and more of it will unfold before our eyes to the praise of His glory forever and ever.

Ephesians 1:3-14 (Note the language used to describe God's eternal plan)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 **having predestined us** to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, **according to the good pleasure of His will**, 6 **to the praise of the glory of His grace**, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us **in all wisdom and prudence**, 9 **having made known to us the mystery of His will**, according to **His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself**, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will**, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be **to the praise of His glory**. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed,

you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is **the guarantee** of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, **to the praise of His glory.**

His plan is Self-created: "He chose...His will...His will...His good pleasure...purposed in Himself...counsel of His will"

His plan is Eternal: "before the foundation of the world...predestined..."

His plan is All-Encompassing: "Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will"

His plan is Self-Glorifying: "to the praise of the glory of His grace...to the praise of His glory (2x)"

His plan is Filled with Grace for hell-deserving sinners: "predestined us to adoption as sons... redemption...forgiveness of sins...one in Christ...sealed with the Holy Spirit...guarantee of our inheritance..."

Read slowly and thoughtfully the following passages that speak to God's all-encompassing plan, and worship Him as you grasp the truth of sovereign purpose to save you at the infinite cost of His Son's death in your place. His unstoppable, unalterable, unending plan to glorify you with Himself in Christ!

Christ's death was absolutely determined by God's plan. But that does not excuse our sinful decisions, even though those decisions are included in His plan. We freely make our sinful decisions, but God who knows all things, weaves them into the fabric of His plan, without in any way being responsible for our sins. Our sins are fully ours and we are fully responsible for them. **But God is never stopped or hindered in His plan by the rebellion of His creatures. In it all He brings glory to Himself as His plan is worked out for His glory.**

Acts 2:22-24 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- Him, being **delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Matthew 26:24 "**The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him**, but **woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!** It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

Luke 22:22 "And truly **the Son of Man goes as it has been determined**, but **woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!**"

Acts 3:17-21 "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But those things which **God foretold** by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, **He has thus fulfilled.** Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and **that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.**

The apostles were punished for preaching and went to prayer... confident God's plan was being fulfilled. They did not pray for escape from persecution. Instead, they prayed for boldness to keep obeying!

Acts 4:24-29

So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "**Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea**, and all that is in them, Who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: "Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the LORD and against His Christ." **For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.** Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word.

Acts 10:40-42 "Him (Jesus) God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is **He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.**

Acts 15:18 **Known to God from eternity are all His works.**

Acts 17:26-27, 31 And **He has made from one blood every nation of men** to dwell on all the face of the earth, **and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings**, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us... because **He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world** in righteousness **by the Man whom He has ordained.** He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

1 Peter 1:18-20 ...knowing that you were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but **with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you...**

Romans 8:28-31 And we know that **all things** work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to **His purpose.** For whom **He foreknew, He also predestined** to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom **He predestined,** these **He also called;** whom **He called,** these **He also justified;** and whom **He justified,** these **He also glorified.** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Make It Personal:

- 1) Are you confident of God's sovereign control? Even though this means you and I aren't in control?
- 2) Do you rest and rejoice in God's sovereign plan for all of creation, and you in particular?
- 3) Will you face the unknown immediate in light of the known eternal and walk by faith with peace in your soul?

Further Study: Read Psalm 2 in light of the apostles' prayer in Acts 4. They were not confident they would be spared from death. They were confident that God was sovereign and His plan would not be derailed by persecution. Read also Isaiah chapters 40-46 slowly. See again and again the sovereignty of our God and the triumph of His gracious purpose.

Oh God of sovereign wisdom true, There is no other God but You!
You reign in majesty alone, and sit upon Your royal throne!
Your plan is set from ancient days, and none shall turn aside your ways!
Oh, may my heart rejoice and sing of You alone, O King of Kings!