Daily Devotion #171

**Settle Your Heart**

**Proverbs 21:1 (NASB)** *“The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.”*

At times there are situations and circumstances in our lives that are very unsettling. Not only are they unsettling but they can also bring fear and a lot of anxiety. Any person who has lived through any difficult situation understands that. Certainly parents can relate. I remember many times as our children were growing into adulthood being concerned about their welfare. In fact, when they were little guys running around our home, it was much easier to control the circumstances and even help them with their feelings about what was going on at the time, no matter what that was. But as they have gotten older, it has been more challenging to see them through situations. It very much has required a dependence on God.

If there is any comfort with challenging situations that are outside of our control, I can think of no greater truth than the words of this proverb. What God tells us through this is He is in control, not only of our family and other people in our lives, but He is also in control of all that happens in a nation. No matter what the issues are or who is in control over any land, God-followers or not, God is moving them to perform the tasks and make the decisions He wants them to make.

There are several examples of this in Scripture. Such as Tiglath-Pileser ([Isa 10:5-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+10%3A5-7)), Nebuchadnezzar ([Da 4:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+4%3A34)) Cyrus ([Isa 45:1-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+45%3A1-4)), and Belshazzar ([Da 5:23-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+5%3A23-25)). Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:21-23). In all these cases, these men did not follow God in their hearts and did not serve Him, but God, by His divine ordination, allowed these men to be in power, and He turned their hearts like the Proverb says, so they would be used by Him and bring glory to Him and also preserve His people through it all.

Many people think that God is only the god of those who believe in Him and follow Him. That is certainly true when talking about salvation, but God is also sovereign over all the affairs of man. Listen to the Apostle Paul as he wrote this truth to the Colossian church. **Colossians 1:16 (NASB)** *“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.”* Thrones and dominions and rulers and authorities speaks of all the institutions of man. Whether they serve God or not, He moves in the affairs of man to fulfill His divine purposes, and no one can change that. Even our Lord Jesus said to Pilate, after having been ridiculed and mistreated horribly. **John 19:11 (NASB)***"You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above”.* To understand the mind of God is impossible. But to know that God works all things for the good of those who love Him, (Romans 8:28) is a truth directly from Him. We, as His people, can take this truth to heart and be greatly comforted by it.

There is no reason to be unsettled beloved. No matter what occurs in this life or who is in earthly power over any nation, no one is outside of the control and purposes of God. You and I, those who have put their hope and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, are eternally safe. But not just eternally safe, we are continuously under that watchful and controlling, powerful hand of God in this life as well. Let’s say it this way. There is no one, or any situation that you find yourself in that God is not aware of and fully in control of. What He wants from you and me is not to understand what He is doing, but to trust Him.

Don’t you think it’s time to let your heart be settled knowing the Lord has your best interest at heart? Don’t despair, there is nothing that can come into your life that God is not capable of dealing with perfectly. You belong to Him. So relax and enjoy your life. If you are not certain you belong to Him, now is a great time to surrender your heart to Him. There is no other god who can help you. (Acts 4:12) Because there is no other God. (Isaiah 45:5).