

December 18, 2022

GOD'S GIFT AT
Christmas

"THE GIFT OF PURPOSE IN OUR DAYS AND OUR PAIN"

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1 CHRONICLES 29:11 (NLT) "Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord, and this is Your kingdom. *We adore You as the One Who is over (in control of) all things.*"

TRUTH: The sovereignty of God means that God is in control.

TRUTH/QUESTION: God is sovereign over the joy and the pain of our lives. What do we need to embrace to make the most of our times that are out of our control?

I. OUR PLANS HAVE A LIMIT (Proverbs 19:21 GNT, 16:1).

TRUTH: Our eternal home is secure, but the plans we make down here are tentative. God decides the limitations of our lives.

WRONG LIFE ATTITUDE: Presumption (James 4:13-15)

TRUTH: Prudent believers make business plans and set life goals, and raise their families with plans and dreams, but realize in the end, God has the final word.

RIGHT ATTITUDE: Cooperation (Proverbs 16:9 LB)

INSIGHT: Planning without prayer is presumption.

II. GOD HAS A PURPOSE IN THE GOOD AND BAD TIMES (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

TRUTH: God has a purpose, plan and even a time for everything that happens.

III. TRUST GOD IN THE CONFUSING TIMES (Ecclesiastes 3:11 LB).

INSIGHT: In the perplexing events of our days, often all we can see is the pain from this broken world, and God's only response to our cries for understanding is: Trust Me, at the right time, to bring good out of your pain.

TRUTH: God allows/permits problems and then uses them for a greater purpose.

INSIGHT: We are at times shut up to faith.

INSIGHT: We need to affirm our faith when we can't see the end from the beginning.

OUR TAKE-AWAY:

1. God's purposes in our lives are sovereign, so our plans have a limit.
2. Because God has a plan to do us good and not evil, we know God has a purpose in the good and the bad times.
3. Because God is a Father to us, we can trust Him in the confusing times of our lives, for one day we'll understand.