



**GODGOVERNS.ORG**

God Governs. This is the really good news.....that we are not left to the devices of our enemy or even to the whims of our friends, but we are governed by our God and Father and we are upheld for His good purposes.....

An old protestant confession says this:

God the great Creator of all things does uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.

From where do such thoughts arise? From the Bible itself.

Hebrews 1: 3 He (Jesus) is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Daniel 4: 34-35 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

Psalms 135:6 Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

While so much of the world wrings their hands in worried frustration, those who know God and believe His Word can take comfort in God's Government.

Acts 17: 24-28 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for "In him we live and move and have our being";

Matthew 10: 29-31 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

The Best Part of knowing that God Governs is the fearlessness. We are loved and governed for His glory and we can rest knowing that all is well.

Ephesians 1: 3-12 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

One of the matters over which God Governs is His grace that makes known to us His will. While some things God Governs in a very general way such as the growing of crops or the golfing of the golf ball, other things, like the revelation of His will to His people, He Governs very particularly. Are you blessed to know and believe in Christ as your Lord? If you are then it is because God has shown Himself to you.

We all know God does some things without our cooperation. He created us before we could ask Him to do so. He redeems us before we can imagine that we even need it. But there are other things that God usually and generally leaves to us to do. His government over such things is a bit more (though never totally) hands off. You can pray for corn to grow, but I suggest you plant and tend a corn field. You can pray for a hole in one in golf, but I suggest you learn to strike the ball toward the hole. But you can also pray against those things which God has determined to accomplish and you will be wasting your time. Indeed, you will not really even be praying. You can ask God not to judge the world through Christ, but He will anyway. He is coming again.

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I speak to college bible studies across the country about God. Why College? Because High School is too soon and 28 it is too late, except for people who are unusually humble.....the ages 18-25 are a great time frame for establishing our views of God and the conclusions we come to from the study of the Bible. Notice that our conclusions should come from study, not our view of the way it "ought to be" or the way we want it to be.

I believe....

I believe in God, the Father Almighty and I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord. Christ Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of a virgin, Mary, he suffered under Pontius Pilate and was crucified. He died, was buried and on the third day Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. He sits at the right hand of God the Father, and Christ Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and in everlasting life.

But here are some really big questions?

How in the world do I believe those amazing, wondrous things?

How do you?

Are we more intelligent or more educated than unbelievers?

Are we less?

Are we morally superior so that we can perceive truth? Are we wiser, better, kinder?

Or is our faith something that has been granted to us as a gift?

While we are yet undeserving, does God open our eyes to see Him, while passing over others and leaving them in their sin?

Or to sum up:

Is your faith the cause of your salvation or the evidence of your salvation?

Are you appointed to Christianity because you believe or do you believe because you are appointed?

Is faith a work of man or a gift of God?

I hope your answers come from the Word of God, because how you answer the questions I just asked will absolutely govern your worship, your witness, your ministry, your marriage, your children, your grandchildren, your work, your play, your joy, and the integrity with which you face your own death more than any other issue you will ever encounter.

Not that I think it's a big deal or anything.

The Bible answers every question I've raised. For instance Acts 13:48 says this.....and when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

It does not say that as many as believed were appointed. The Lord is described as acting in a manner previous to their decision. Election. Predestination. Calling. Conviction. Regeneration. I hope you don't think that you do those things. I sure don't think I did them. Yet there they are in black in white right there in our Bibles. What do we do with such words? Do we ignore them or deal with them. Do they matter? Well, only more than any other issue in life!

I have been blessed to marry and raise a family, to start and pastor three new churches as well as a business which provides me the freedom now to travel and speak without the pressure of money. Usually such questions as I've raised here generate even more questions so I try to spend time at the college to answer questions in as relaxed a manner as possible. It is the calling of my life, the greatest privilege I have and the main source of wonder in my life to talk about the greatness of God with people who are at the beginning of their adult lives.....

I would love to come to your university and share with you the great truth of scripture that:

God Saves Sinners.

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