GOD IS IN CONTROL

God is Sovereign and in complete control of everything that comes our way.

KEY POINTS

- Many situations may cause us concern: threats of war and/or economic crises; personal situations among our families and friends; and spiritual concerns that bring us to our knees.
- But there is one simple statement we can make that is the foundation of our hope: God is Sovereign and God is in control!
- God is in control of my body, my workplace, my home, and my finances. He controls my health, my relationships, my education, my future.
- God is in control of Canada, its economy and every national head of state.
- He is in control of His Church. He is in control of Faith Sanctuary: every minister, every saint and every soul that walks through the church doors.
- Of course, God allows us to exercise our free will to take control of our own lives if we so choose. But when we ask Him to come in and take control, He gladly takes the reins and exercises His sovereignty as Lord, Master, Father and King.
- In Revelation 1:8, John heard Jesus say, "I am the Alpha and the Omega." (The end of verse 17 gives the translation: "I am the first and the last.") Verse 8 also tells us that He is "the Almighty."
- In chapter 4:1-2, John had another vision:

  …behold, a door standing opened in heaven… the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet … saying "Come up here and I will show you these things which must take place after this." [2]Immediately I was in the Spirit and beheld a throne set in heaven and one sat on the throne.
- There is a throne in heaven with only one King sitting upon it. We know Him by name and we know Him through family relationship – He is our Father and we are His children.
- He is in complete control and nothing escapes His attention. So, we can be totally at ease.
- We have the Bible in our hands and it is meant for us to read. We must deliberately set time aside to study His word. In so doing, we inoculate ourselves against worldly thinking that destroys faith.
- Don't fall into the trap of thinking that God is in control only in the "good times", or when we feel blessed.
- Paul and Silas were in a prison cell, their backs beaten raw. But at midnight it's as if they said, "Yesterday was horrible, and we're still feeling the pain of it, but today is a brand new day – let's start it with a song of praise and assurance." Perhaps they sang:

  The Lord is blessing me right now
  I feel His Spirit coming down
  You may not be able to see
  What the Lord has done for me
  But the Lord is blessing me right now.
- God is in control. He is still on the throne. Nothing happens outside of His foreknowledge or understanding.
- Those who are chess players know how difficult it is to control the 16 pieces on your side of the board while your opponent tries to defeat you using the 16 pieces under their control.
- God is working with 7.5B pieces (people), the majority of whom are fighting against His stated will and plan!
- But make no mistake – He has it all figured out. God is in control.
- No human can figure out all that is happening within a church building or a home, much less a community or a life.
- But there is one thing we know for certain: God is still on the throne.
- We don't have to fear. He is in control.

KEY SCRIPTURE:
1 Timothy 6:11-16

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Recall individuals in Scripture (e.g. Joseph, David, Paul and Silas, etc.), who had good reason to be concerned. How did God work in their situations?
2. Did any biblical situations not "end well" for a child of God? If so, does that mean humans violated God's plan/purpose? Or can things "go wrong" even when God is in control? Explain.
3. Read Psalm 2:1-4. What do these verses reveal about God's perspective versus human perspectives?

Prayer Time

"I don't worry 'bout the future, 'cause this one thing I know: God is still on His throne." Thank You. Lord. for this reassurance. in Jesus' name.

L.G. ice-Breaker: What comes to mind when you think of a "strong-willed child"? What are positives and negatives of this personality trait?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

(Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS