

LESSON 2

Are You Glad You're Not in Charge?

If we accept the fact that everything we walk on, drive on, sit on or talk to belongs to God, doesn't it follow that He would have orchestrated some sort of plan for all of it? What you and I can't comprehend is that He had all of this in mind from the beginning. Paul talks about this in his letter to the Colossians...

Scriptural Foundation

Take a look at **Colossians 1:16**

Read it again, more slowly this time. A few years ago, I noticed the prepositions in the above scripture.

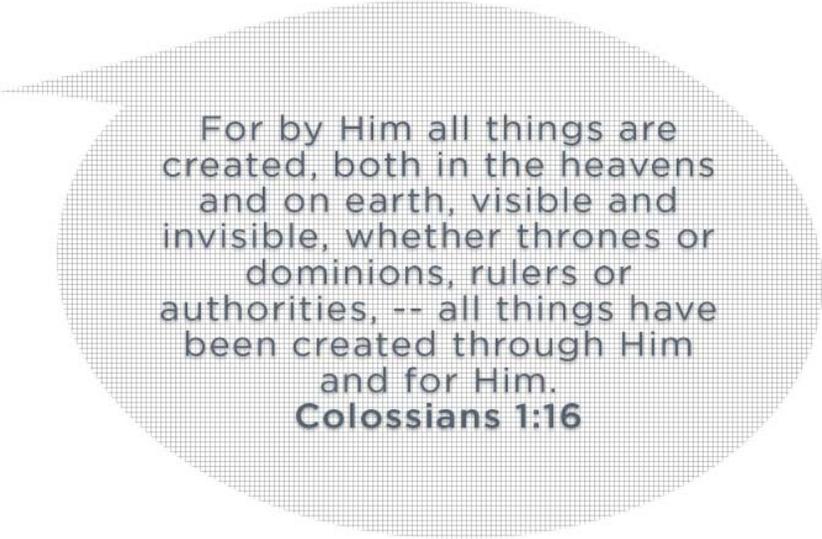
**By Him
Through Him
For Him**

His plan was totally comprehensive in the sense that our Lord was involved in every possible aspect of His creation and His resulting sovereign rule over it.

Sovereign is another one of those words that we sometimes say in church, but don't really grasp the full meaning. It essentially means that our Father has supreme rule and authority over everything. That's a tall order! But think of the implications for you and for me.

The fact that He is sovereign over His creation and His possessions, means not only that I don't have the right to be in charge, but **I also don't have the need to be in charge!** Think about it. **That takes an enormous amount of pressure off me.** I don't have to take on the burden of yesterday or tomorrow. I live for today, and I do so by His grace and through His strength.

The Old Testament has a few things to say on the subject as well. **Deuteronomy 8:17:** **"Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth."**



For by Him all things are created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions, rulers or authorities, -- all things have been created through Him and for Him.
Colossians 1:16

SOVEREIGN
unconditional *leader*
total ULTIMATE POWER
king **RULER** *absolute*

Do you get it? Sure, we go to school, learn a trade and put in a lot of effort to make a living. But ultimately, the skills we acquire and the wisdom we have to make decisions come from Him. So, we receive the paycheck and the benefits, but it all results from His sovereign will for us.

The fact that He has a plan for us should be at the top of our thanksgiving list. We're clearly told in **Jeremiah 29:11** that "I know the plans I have for you" and that His plan "is not for calamity to give you a future and a hope." **Yes, you read it correctly, HOPE!** How many times do we grumble and struggle through the day as if there is no hope for something better? He never intended for you and me to do that.

"...I'll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for..."

Jeremiah 29:11 (The Message)

It's Not Just Academic

All of the above is easy to say, and maybe even easy to accept in theory. But what about the times when this sovereign plan of His looks like a train wreck from our perspective? The apostle Paul helps us in those times by the divinely inspired statements he made when he wrote to the Romans, specifically in **Romans 8:28**. **"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."** Please note, Paul (or our Heavenly Father) never said all things are good. What he did say was that our Father can take all of the mess in our lives and weave it together for our perfect good in His perfect plan. Do we understand it all? No. Is it always fun? Definitely, no! Do you love God? Do you have a sense that you are called according to His purpose? If you answered yes to the last two questions, **can you trust Him to be true to His word? Emphatically, yes!**



