

SERIOUS QUESTIONS FOR SERIOUS CHRISTIANS



RCF Small Group

6:30-8:00pm

Leader: Randy Glau

October– December, 2022

Week #2: Is God in Control?



Serious Question #1: *Is God in Control?*

True or False:

Nothing happens on this earth outside of God's will.

He decrees / allows / ordains every single thing that occurs.

Serious Question #1:

Is God in Control?

- What is the difference between 'decree' vs 'allow' vs 'ordain' ?
- What are the real differences in these terms when we speak of the Lord's 'hands on' management of this world and world events?
- This world and all in it are His creation. (Genesis 1:1; Col 1:16; Heb 1:2)
- Think of the flood in Noah's day. (Gen 7:23-24; 2Peter 2:5)
 - Did God 'decree it'? Did He 'allow it'? Did He 'ordain it'?
- Sodom and Gomorrah? (Gen 19:24 ; 2 Peter 2:6)
- Judas' betrayal? (Matthew 26:48-49)

Serious Question #1:

Is God in Control?

- Jesus and His savage death on the cross? (John 19:30)

When nations came to do their absolute worst, namely the murder of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, they had not slipped out of God's control, but were doing His sweetest bidding at their worst moment.

“Many believed the cross ended Jesus' plans. However, we believe that it was the focus of His first coming to earth. As people who are "Following Christ Together," we must rightly comprehend the necessity of Jesus' passion and cross. He was not helpless and didn't need to suffer and die, but we were and did. His most terrible hour was for us - it was our hour.” -- J. Bzdafka

“Truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, Whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place.” (Acts 4:27–28)

The worst sin that ever happened was in God's plan, and by that sin, sin died.

Serious Question #1:

Is God in Control?

- From before the world began, He knit us together in our mother's womb. (Jer 1:5, Psalms 139:13). He knows you intimately. He created you!
- Your family life, your health, your personality, your friends, your successes, your sins, your future, your choices. He knows it all.

Does He 'decree' those things, or 'allow' those things, or 'ordain' those things?

Serious Question #1: *Is God in Control?*

Are there any real differences between those words when we speak of His impact on my world?

If God wished to change the outcome of anything in your world (past, present or future), then the outcome would change.

There is nothing that could stop Him.

Including man's 'free will'. (Arminian view.)

Man's free will has nothing to do with God's ability to manage His creation. (Calvinistic view).

Today is 'one moment after another' of God working things out for your ultimate good.

He is Sovereign.

Serious Question #1:

Is God in Control?

- “Remember this, fix it in your mind, take it to heart you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. ...I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please...What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.’” (Isaiah 46:8-11)
- “‘Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?’ Jesus said, ‘Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the hairs of your head are numbered.’” (Matthew 10:29–30).
- “Our God is in heaven. He does whatever pleases Him.” (Ps 115:3)

Serious Question #1:

Is God in Control?

- Scriptures teach not only that God predestined certain individuals to eternal life, but that all events, both small and great, come about as the result of God's eternal decree.
- The Lord God rules over heaven and earth with absolute control; nothing comes to pass apart from His eternal purpose.

Serious Question #1

True or False:

Nothing happens on this earth outside of God's will. He decrees / allows / controls every single thing that occurs.

TRUE

If it "is"

if it "exists"

then it's God's Will for it to be so.

Nothing comes to you that doesn't pass through God's providential fingers first. You have to know that. You have to believe that. You have to trust that. You have to rest in that. That providential set will situate you so that you can respond to life's challenges, setbacks and apparent randomness with a spirit of intentionality and persevering faith.

Class answers: T / 20, F / 2

Questions?

Next week

➤ How am I saved?