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The Proverbs Series: Sovereignty and Choice

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Proverbs 16:

¹ The plans of the heart belong to man, but the reply of the tongue is from the LORD.

⁵ Everyone who is proud in heart is detestable to the LORD; be assured that he will not go unpunished.

⁹ A man's heart plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

²¹ The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant speech promotes instruction.

²³ The heart of the wise man instructs his mouth and adds persuasiveness to his lips.

Intro: The struggle to understand the line between man's responsibility for their actions and God's sovereignty has been a topic of debate for thousands of years.

1. The **condition** of our heart is totally our responsibility. We must police what we put into our minds, we must express our emotions in a godly manner and we must discipline ourselves to do what we know is right according to God's Word. However, **God** is still in charge regardless of what we do or say. V. 1
2. **Pride** affects what we put in our minds, It affects our emotional expressions, and it affects the exercise of our free will. We will be held responsible for all of this. V. 5
3. The course of our life is not left up to circumstance. We do have real **choices** to make regardless of circumstances. However, God determines our steps according to His sovereignty. V. 9
4. If our heart has been filled with God's wisdom we will have a reputation of being people of **discernment**. People will be righteously persuaded and instructed by us. V. 21, 23

Let us spend some time in prayer, praying through each of these verses asking God to give us wise hearts.