**Does God have a special plan for me?**

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

**Introduction**

1. **Proverbs 3:5-6**, among other passages of scripture, is quoted by those in the world quite often.
   1. It is used improperly by most to refer to a plan for life God has specially tailored for you.
   2. **Men speak of “God’s will” in a secular sense – that He has planned out all the facets of our individual lives. (EX: school, sports, work, relationships, etc.)**
   3. *They turn to such passages for comfort during confusing times – do not worry, everything happens for a reason, just trust in God’s plan for you.*
      1. **Sadly, this kind of thought is even prevalent among God’s people.**
      2. **Phrases used like, “Everything happens for a reason,” “If it’s meant to happen, it will happen,” etc.**
   4. Is this scriptural?
2. Does God have a distinctive plan for each individual?
3. Where does this thought come from?
4. Calvinism and Predestination
   1. “God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass.” (Presbyterian Confession of Faith, chap. Iii, sec. I)
   2. Misunderstanding of God’s Sovereignty
      1. **Jeremiah 32:17** – nothing too hard for Him (Omnipotent – all powerful).
      2. **Job 42:2** – God’s purposes cannot be thwarted.
      3. If God is all powerful, He must be responsible for everything that happens. He is in control of everything. (***He cannot relinquish power in any way or form.***)
         1. This, like the rest of the tenets of Calvinism, must be all encompassing.
         2. **All or nothing – It cannot be that some things are against God’s will, because His omnipotence does not allow it.**
5. Consequences
   1. Free-will is not real.
      1. Some who believe this concept worry that they might go against God’s will.
      2. **If this doctrine is true, the logical implication is that it is impossible to go against God’s will, for everything you do is regulated by Him.**
   2. Sin is God’s will.
      1. **Genesis 4:8-12** – Cain kills Abel and is cursed by God.
         1. If God has a plan for you, He had a plan for Cain – ***“God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34)***. (*This could not even be the case, for each plan differs. Thus, God shows partiality.*)
         2. **This must have been God’s will, or personal plan, for Cain?**
      2. **If this was God’s plan for Cain** (*must have been because Cain could not do something contrary to God’s plan for him – no purpose withheld from God*), **did Cain really sin?**
         1. If God had decreed everything in Cain’s life, his sin must be included.
         2. **Yet, if God decreed the sin of Cain, then Cain did nothing wrong, for he was in line with God’s will.**
         3. In fact, Cain could not have possibly done otherwise.
6. What is our distinctive plan? (How do we know God’s individual plan for us, if this be the case?)
   1. **Proverbs 16:9** – If this means God has a special personal plan for my life, how does He direct me in it?
      1. *Men will say, “You may have planned your life out, but God has another plan for you.”*
      2. **How do we know that plan?!**
   2. **Psalm 119:105** – this cannot be the source to find such a plan.
      1. **God’s word does not give the blueprint of each specific thing in our life.**
      2. **Every action we have taken, are taking, and will take is not written down for us.**
   3. Man, then, must be left to his own devices to determine God’s plan for him.
      1. **Jeremiah 10:23** – the way of man is not in himself.
      2. **It is impossible to follow God’s plan for us if He doesn’t show it to us. 🡪**
7. *Many times, men turn to this concept to justify the way they are living, and the choices they make from day to day. It is God’s predetermined plan for me, so it’s meant to be this way. I was meant to make this choice, and do this thing.*
   1. This doctrine is false, and finds itself in contradiction.
   2. *Christians must understand – not everything happens for a reason, and God has not predetermined every detail of your life.*
   3. **God’s will for YOU is no different than His will for ANOTHER, and each is left with free will to follow God’s will, or reject it and lead their own lives. 🡪**
8. God’s plan for you, and everyone else.
9. To serve Him.
   1. **Ecclesiastes 12:13** – This is our created purpose – or, God’s plan for mankind.
   2. **Romans 3:23** – men have failed in their created purpose.
      1. Men are created in God’s image.
      2. Created for God’s glory.
      3. **Glory brought to God when men follow His will, or His law.**
10. To be redeemed.
    1. **Romans 6:23** – in falling short of God’s glory, we have become worthy of death.
    2. **2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4** – God does not want this end for man. He wants them to have salvation.
    3. **John 3:16** – God provided His Son as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind.
       1. This is a provision that is available for all men.
       2. The Grace of God has appeared to all men (**cf. Titus 2:11),** but we must do what He says to receive it.
    4. **2 Corinthians 5:18-21** – BE RECONCILED TO GOD THROUGH HIS WORD!
       1. This starts by obeying what the word says about being baptized.
       2. **Yet, it doesn’t stop there. God’s plan for you is to live out His word every day!**
11. To live faithfully.
    1. **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24** – His plan for you is to live according to His word so you will be found blameless in the judgment day.
       1. This is God’s will for you, and everyone else.
       2. He is faithful, and will do it!
       3. Remember **Job 42:2**, no purpose is withheld from Him.
       4. **However, He accomplishes it in us through His word. We must submit to it!**
    2. **Matthew 7:21-27** – God intends for us to build our lives on the rock. This is His plan for us, but we must follow it.
    3. **Proverbs 3:5-6** – We must trust Him, and not worry. We must acknowledge Him by appealing to His word. In that way He directs us.

**Conclusion**

1. God has not predestined individual’s lives, nor their eternal destiny.
2. There is no special personal plan for our lives here on earth.
3. **There IS a special plan for all of mankind which God has laid out before the foundation of the earth.**
4. We have the choice to follow it, or reject it.
5. What will you choose?