

Lucky Chances

"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord."

Proverbs 16:33 NIV

In the Christian community there are certain words we need to avoid. I am not referring to profanity. It is understood that vulgar language should never cross the mouths of believers. But some words that no one suggests are profane are just as offensive to the Lord. Among such words are "luck" and "chance".

Our view of the sovereignty of God needs to extend to all that happens around us. Our verse for today tells us that when you roll dice the numbers that turn up are determined by the Lord.

You may wish for 5 and 6 to appear and if they do turn up you must not say words like, "What luck!" Life is not full of chances and luck. Whatever happens occurs by the will of God.

A tragic story in the Old Testament is the one about the prophet Eli and his sons. Eli served the Lord but his sons did not, and Eli did not rebuke them for their sinful lifestyles.

One night when Samuel was a young lad and serving the needs of Eli, the Lord spoke to Samuel and told him that Eli's sons would be cut off because of their blaspheming the Lord and because Eli did not restrain them.

In the morning when Eli woke he called to Samuel to come before him and share with him what the Lord had said. It must have frightened the young lad to have to bear such tragic news to the elderly Eli, but he overcame his fear and spoke all that God had said to him.

Undoubtedly Eli's heart must have been broken, but he demonstrated a submissive spirit in light of the bad news about his family. What Eli said is recorded in 1 Samuel 3:18 (NIV) "So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, 'He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes.'"

Eli would have been heartbroken at the news but he showed a submissive spirit and recognized that what was coming upon his sons

was not "bad luck"—rather it was the hand of God acting with justice.

When sorrow comes knocking at our door we must learn to say with Eli, "He is the Lord, let Him do what He sees as right." We may weep as our loved ones pay the price for walking away from the Lord. However, we do not say it was their unlucky day when judgment falls on them. Luck has nothing to do with the events of this life. All is under the sovereign control of the Lord.

May the truth of God's sovereignty bring you much encouragement as you learn to live with the challenges facing you. Let the words of John in Revelation 19:6 NIV sink deep into your heart where he wrote, "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns."

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