



God is on His Throne

Acts 15:36-16:10

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November 8, 2020

Through the early part of Paul's second missionary journey there are three scenes that may appear confusing, difficult, or messy. Yet, over and above, and through each of these, we can clearly see that God is in control, orchestrating His good purposes.

The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. Proverbs 16:9

Three scenes from early in Paul's second missionary journey that were potentially confusing or difficult, but that ultimately remind us of how God was at work through circumstances:

A **conflict** in ministry among Christian brothers (15:36-41)

A **concession** made for the sake of ministry (16:1-5)

A **constraint** on man's plans for ministry.

Questions to Consider

1. Looking back over 2020, what's at least one way in which God reminded you that His plans for you are better than your own plans?
2. What's a lesson that God taught you through an experience of conflict?
3. Have you ever had to make a concession in your own Christian freedom so as not to cause another person to stumble? Or, is there a concession you may need to make?
4. In what way(s) should we be cautious about saying things like "God told me," or "God led me to do..."?
5. What attitudes should pervade a believer's heart even when we are in circumstances that we did not anticipate and do not enjoy? (Read Philippians 4:11-13)
6. Our submission to God's sovereign will should not lead us to a passive sense of resignation. Instead, what should the knowledge of His providence encourage us toward?