



Series: 1 Thessalonians: Words of Assurance and Hope

Date: July 19, 2015

Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

Title: Satan's Role & God's Control

I. SATAN'S ROLE

(1) He's the enemy of God and his people

- John 8:44, 1 Peter 5:8-10, Rev 12:10

(2) He's limited by God

- Job 1:6-12, Luke 22:31, Jude 6

(3) He's a servant to God's purposes

- Proverbs 16:4

II. GOD'S CONTROL

(1) His control is complete

- Psalm 115:3, Isaiah 46:8-11, Daniel 4:35-36

(2) His control is mysterious

- 1 Corinthians 13:12, Psalm 13:1

(3) His control is good

- Romans 8:28-30

QUESTION: If God is good, why would he allow _____?

- Romans 9:19-23—God's has determined the maximum display of his glory to come through redemption.

OBJECTION: But he's God, couldn't he have done it another way without all the pain?

- (1). Yes, but he hasn't—we need to realize we see the world through sin tainted glasses.
- (2). Job 38:1-11; 40:1-9; 41:1-5

III. OUR RESPONSE

(1) We should be obedient

(2) We should be confident

John Calvin on how a right view of God's Providence helps the believer

- *"But when once the light of Divine Providence has illumined the believer's soul, he is relieved and set free, not only from the extreme fear and anxiety which formerly oppressed him, but from all care. For as he justly shudders at the idea of chance, so he can confidently commit himself to God. This, I say, is his comfort, that his heavenly Father so embraces all things under his power—so governs them at will by his nod—so regulates them by his wisdom, that nothing takes place save according to his appointment; that received into his favour, and entrusted to the care of his angels, neither fire, nor water, nor sword, can do him harm, except in so far as God their master is pleased to permit."*

- *"But when they call to mind that the devil, and the whole train of the ungodly, are, in all directions, held in by the hand of God as with a bridle, so that they can neither conceive any mischief, nor plan what they have conceived, nor how much soever they may have planned, move a single finger to perpetrate, unless in so far as he permits, nay, unless in so far as he commands; that they are not only bound by his fetters, but are even forced to do him service,— when the godly think of all these things they have ample sources of consolation....In one word, not to dwell longer on this, give heed, and you will at once perceive that ignorance of Providence is the greatest of all miseries, and the knowledge of it the highest happiness."*

–John Calvin (Institutes; Book 1, Chapter 17,

Paragraph 11)