

Proverbs for Teachers 23

A reprint series for LEA members
January 10, 2021

Forget the Creek

Prov. 19:21

Men see only the present; heaven sees the future—Chinese proverb

How God's will became mixed up with rising creeks, we'll probably never know. Somewhere, sometime, people started to say, for example "We'll see you in church Sunday, John—the good Lord willing and the creek don't rise." In some cases, the creek no doubt rose on Sunday morning more often than John did!

But enough about the creek. The good Lord's will is our focus here. A full review of God's will goes back to the beginning of time, actually before time began. The good Lord intended a paradise for the pinnacle of His creation, Adam and Eve. God's will was for humanity to live happily, everlastingly after. The creek didn't rise, but neither did the first couple live happily as God intended. Instead, sin rose and has been rising ever since.

Our holy, all-powerful Creator God could have abandoned us to drown in the rising tide of our own disobedience. But He willed not our death, but His peace and new life for us. By the will of God, Jesus became a true human being and paid for our sins through His willing sacrifice. God's will was never thwarted though it took some detours. The same is true for our plans. Proverbs 19:21 says, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."

God's will for us is always good. That's why it's good to teach the phrase "the good Lord willing." It makes clear our trust in God's goodness and wisdom. It places all of life in perspective, even when for the moment it doesn't seem God's good and gracious will is being done. God wills not disaster, but He brings something good from each seeming disaster that threatens to ruin our lives or the lives of our students (Rom. 8:28, 31).

What do you plan for your students For yourself? Make the good Lord's will your will. Ask Him to bless your plans—and to alter them if necessary. Teach your students to trust God in all they plan too.

Pray: *Your will be done, dear Father. Do what is good for us and others. Amen.*

*Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails—
Proverbs 19:21.*

Written by Edward Grube, LL.D
Director of Communications
Lutheran Education Association

Portions of the text are adapted from *Proverbs for Teachers* ©2007 CTA, Inc. Used with permission of CTA, Inc.

Quoted Scripture: [NIV®](#)

[Read this devotion in PDF.](#)

[Access the library of devotions](#)