

Because we know nothing can happen to us except what is in accordance with His plan. He may want one man to go somewhere and do a work for the Lord and reach thousands of people. He may want another to work in a field which seems utterly barren. He works and toils and it seems he has no effect. But God may be using him just as truly as He is using the other man. We don't want to take these doctrines in a way that makes us feel satisfied in not doing our best, but we want to take them in a way which makes us content with the results God sends. I think they are very important for our happiness in life. I think a Christian who understands the sovereignty of God and understands the fact that God has laid his hand on him and won't take it off, I think he has a cause for joy and satisfaction and comfort whatever comes. I think his attitude should be a desire to spread the blessings of this comfort and joy to other people rather than a desire to attack other people because they don't have it!

Neher: Preaching then would not focus on the theology of God's working so much as to point out that He is in control when you come along to it in the Bible.

AAM: I would think so, yes. The details -- now for instance you take these five terms. I think the terms are very bad. Just selected to make an acrostic, of course. The first one is total depravity. What does that mean to the average person? It means that everybody is just as bad as he can possibly be. That, of course is nonsense. Man was made in the image of God, which is not entirely lost. The most depraved wicked people will show real goodness at times. They will be kind and helpful so long as they themselves are not personally involved in it. There is a certain amount of goodness in everybody. Total depravity means the lost man cannot do anything that deserves God's favor. I think that could be better expressed in a different way. I think it's an important thing to understand. Scripture says, The plowing of the wicked is sin.