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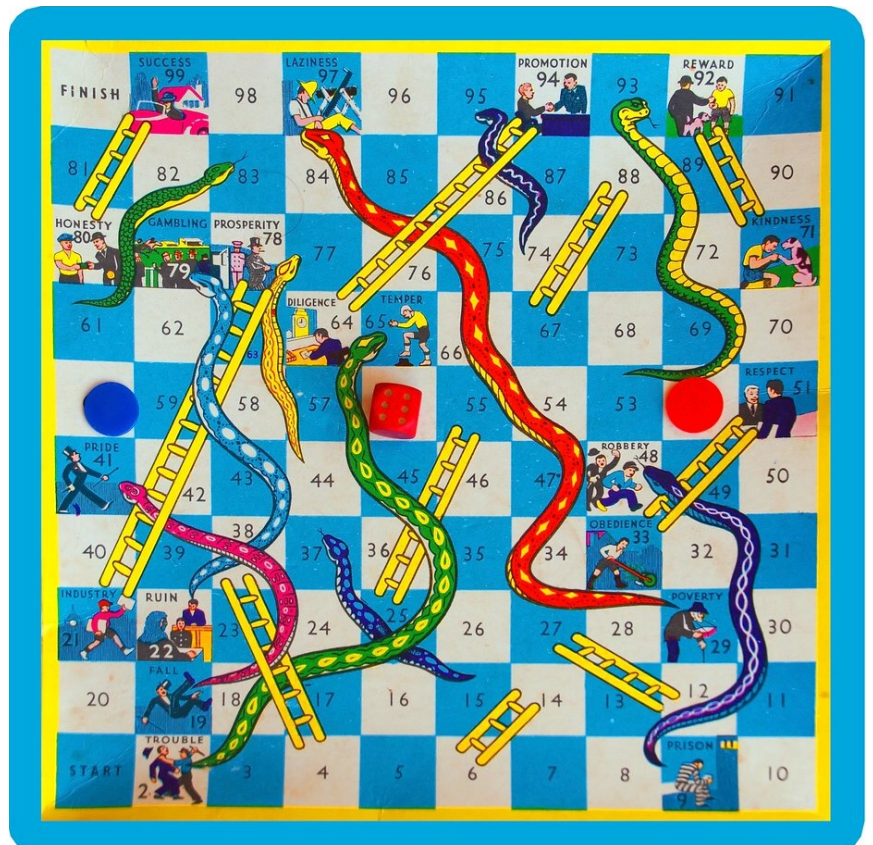
Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:6 (NLT)

Thought for today...

Snakes and Ladders (or Chutes and Ladders as it is sometimes known), is a board game, which in its original version, taught the virtues and vices of our age. The morality lessons are demonstrated by a player's progression up the board (a life journey of virtues shown by ladders) and down the board (a life journey of vices shown by snakes).

The object of the game is to navigate one's game piece, according to die rolls, from the start (bottom square), to the finish (top square), helped by climbing ladders but hindered by falling down snakes.

We see here that the vice of pride goes before a fall (square 41 returns to square 19), and the virtue of obedience (square 33) leads to respect (square 51).





It may sometimes feel as though our lives are nothing more than a complicated game of snakes and ladders; a wrong move here, or a poorly made decision there, and suddenly, we find ourselves in a predicament that is not of our liking or choosing!

Despite this, the Bible reminds us **"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them."** Romans 8:28 (New Living Translation). Read that verse again with an emphasis on the word 'everything' - now that's a game changer!

Life at its best is complicated. Health issues, relationship problems, money worries, kids heading in a direction that is so far from what you had planned, bullying bosses at work or peers in the classroom or online, Church life isn't what you thought it would be, homelessness, poverty, the job is too much and is causing you stress, the job is not enough and doesn't utilise your skills, never mind the job being too much or not enough, you'd just be glad to **have** a job! And so the list of problems goes on...

As followers of Christ, we believe that life is not a mere game of chance, but whatever 'square' you may feel you have landed on today, take hope in the scripture verse quoted above, coupled with that in Jeremiah 29:11, which reminds us **"For I know the plans I have for you,"** says the LORD. **"They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."** (New Living Translation)

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:31 (NIV)