

Psalm 104; Lord's Day 10
FATHER'S PROVIDENCE

- I. Our Father's sovereign control.
 - A. The sovereign God exercises absolute control over everything He created.
 - 1. First, He continues to speak the word of power whereby He upholds all that He created (Neh. 9:6).
 - 2. Second, He governs everything according to His perfectly wise plan (Prov. 16:33; 20:24; Isa. 46:10; Jer. 10:23; Eph. 1:11).
 - B. Characteristics of His control.
 - C. What God controls by His providence.
 - 1. He controls the nations, creation, animals, Satan and evil spirits.
 - 2. He controls the common and the special, the pleasant and the unpleasant, great and small.
 - D. Our faith in God's providence leads us to reject certain errors.
- II. The proper response of faith is a child-like joyful embracing of it (not just tolerating His sovereignty).
 - A. Patient in adversity (Rom. 5:3; James 1:3).
 - 1. This means that we consciously focus on Him who brings the cross, submitting to His supreme and perfectly-wise will.
 - 2. We are called to endure, to bear patiently, and to persevere under trials.
 - B. Thankful in prosperity.
 - 1. Gratitude sees that all we are and have (success and prosperity) are gifts from our Father in heaven.
 - a. Gratitude realizes that what we deserve and seeing that we never get what we deserve.
 - C. Trusting our faithful Father with the future.
 - D. Obey our gracious Father by loving Him.