

Sunday school: March 10, 2024

## OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

1. God Governs All Things
2. First Cause and Secondary Causes
3. God Usually Uses Means
4. God Is Sovereign Even Over Sin
5. God Often Disciplines or Tests His Children
6. God Sometimes Hardens the Wicked
7. God's Providence Cares Especially for His Church

A. Paragraph 1: An overview of God's Providence (**Isaiah 46:10-11, Psalm 135:6**)

1. The Author- God our Creator
2. The Foundation- His Omniscience, Omnipotence, and Omnipresence
3. The Essence- Uphold, direct, and govern. God is in complete control of history and uses it to work out His eternal purposes.
4. The Objects- All of creation from the least to the greatest. "There is not one maverick molecule in all creation" ~Sproul
5. The Nature- is not fatalistic, impersonal, or immoral. It is established in His wisdom and holiness.
6. The Compatibility- According to the determined will of God all things work together and in order.
7. The Determining cause- His mind. His will
8. The Goal- To the praise of the glory of His attributes For our good and for His glory.
9. We can rest in the decree, providence and will of our Creator who directs every aspect of our lives.

Paragraph 2-7 Addresses questions raised by paragraph 1

B. Paragraph 2-3: What difference does it make what I do? (**Acts 2:23, Proverbs 16:33, Isaiah 55:10-11, Romans 4:19-21**)

Second causes- Use the means because God uses the means  
Prevents miserable anxiety and complaining, paralyzing fatalism, and presumption.  
Don't expect the outcome without using the means!

C. Paragraph 4: If God is in control of all things how can he blame me for my sins? (**Romans 11:32-34, Genesis 50:20**). [Mention Isaiah 10]  
Sinfulness comes from the creature not God.

D. Paragraph 5: What possible good can come from God including my sins in His providence? (**2 Corinthians 12:7-20**) To chastise, humble, or keep us from greater sins.

E. Paragraph 6: Can a loving God really harden men? (**Romans 1:16-32, Deuteronomy 29:4, Psalm 81:11-12, 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**)  
He withholds His grace

F. Paragraph 7: Who is the special focus of God's care and providence?  
The Church

