

What's the Big Idea? – Providence

Psalm 103

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July 19, 2015

Introduction: Studying Big Ideas of the Bible
Today – Providence
Robinson Crusoe
George Washington
Maj. Sullivan Ballou
Providence vs. Naturalism

I. What is Providence?

FAQ # 18 Q. – What are God's Works of Providence?

A – God's works of providence are His holy, wise and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures: ordering them and all their actions, to His own Glory.

- 1. Preserving His creatures**
- 2. Governing His creatures**
- 3. Ordering their actions – to His own glory**
- 4. Related to His Sovereignty**
 - a. God's direction in our lives ordering His creation**
 - b. You aren't "lucky" – which means a random universe that coincidentally fell your way this time. God providentially ordering things in your favor – perhaps using the mundane instrumentality of (eg.) gravity**
 - c. God's kingship alluded to in Samuel, Kings and Chronicles – all rotten kings but pointing ahead to a perfect king who would rule benevolently as a servant**
- 5. God's providence with our souls**
 - a. Everyone has a different story – just because God works providentially**
 - b. God gave us a bit of rope – our response was to use it to hang ourselves**
 - c. Judicial consequences to our sin**
 - d. Practical consequences to our sin**
 - e. Our best efforts aren't good enough**
 - f. God did for us what we could not do for ourselves**

II. Take Away

- A. Believe the bad news and the good news**
- B. Providence is one of the great comforting truths of the Bible**
 - a. The verses we enjoy quoting deal with the providence of God**
- C. The Providence of God provides peace for the soul**
- D. His preserving, His governing and His ordering all His creatures to His own glory.**

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Other Relevant Verses

Romans 8: 28 – And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

FAQ # 18 – What are God's works of providence?

A – God's works of providence are His holy, wise and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures; ordering them and all their actions, to His own glory.

Hebrews 11: 13-16 – These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Psalm 103: 6 - The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

Psalm 103: 19 - The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Psalm 103: 22 – Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Romans 8: 31-37 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be [i] against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. [j] 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long;

we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Romans 3: 20 – For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight

Romans 8: 28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Matthew 10: 29-31 - Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

John 3: 16 - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Psalm 23 - The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Genesis 45: 4-8 - So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 50: 19-20 - But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.