

Whole World - cont.

patience for vindication and deliverance from all wrongs (Psalm 37; 40:13ff; James 5:7ff). We should have courage and hope when harassed by the world (Psalm 60; 62). We should accept from God even what we cannot control, knowing that God is all-wise (2 Corinthians 12:8-10).

We should develop a content attitude, knowing that God will give us what we need and what is best for us (Philippians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5). For example, we may pray for healing from sickness and receive a "No" from God like Paul (2 Corinthians 12:7). In this case, we continue to trust God knowing that whatever he gives us through his providence will be for our good.

We should pray more to him and praise him, knowing that God will hear us, respond to us, and always care for his own (Matthew 6:11; 7:7-11). We should trust God because we are dependent upon him (Acts 17:28), we are submissive to his will (Job 1:21), and we are confident that everything will turn out according to his will (James 4:15).

Since providence does not eliminate personal responsibility, we should keep doing our part to be active in living right in our physical work (1 Thessalonians 4:10-12) and our spiritual work (Philippians 2:12-13). We should seize every opportunity to work heartily for God (Ecclesiastes 9:7-10).

Let us all be grateful, faithful, and obedient to our God who is alive and providentially working today inside and outside of his holy word. Let us go out and live by God's "Five P's" ... prayer, preaching, perseverance, praise, and providence! - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- You can look like the other gender, act like the other gender, and even dress like the other gender, but that doesn't actually make you the other gender.
- A person is defined by who he is, not by what he has.
- Love and hate are two good character qualities as long as they are never mixed up.
- When we mistreat our brethren, we mistreat Jesus himself.

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

March 15, 2020



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands - Part 3

In the past two issues of *The Warfield Bulletin*, I have examined the providence of God as it is set forth in scripture. I conclude this study here with a look at God's providential care for his children.

4. God's Care For His Children. God has demonstrated his providential care over many individuals in the Bible and he continues to care for you and me. David wrote: *"I have been young, and now am old; Yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread"* (Psalm 37:25). We must remember Paul's words in Athens: *"for in him we live, and move, and have our very being..."* (Acts 17:28). Jesus reminded his disciples: *"the very hairs of your head are numbered"* (Matthew 10:30).

Examples of God's providential care for his children are numerous in scripture. He cared for the Jews (Exodus 34:23), Joseph (Genesis 50:20), the Jews returning from captivity (Ezra 6:22; 7:27), Jesus (Matthew 4:11), Paul (Acts 27:23-24), Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:27), and many others.

Today, God provides for our physical necessities (Matthew 6:23-33). God is on the side of the faithful Christian as he walks through life (Romans 8:28-39). God provides for our every spiritual need (Ephesians 1:7,18; 3:8) and physical need (Philippians 4:19). He gives us every good and perfect gift from heaven (James 1:17). God sends messengers (angels) to serve us (Hebrews 1:14). God offers help in time of need when we pray to him (Hebrews 2; 4; 13:4-5). God sends chastening to correct us (Hebrews 12:5-13;).

God will protect us, deliver us, and rescue us from evil (2 Timothy 4:18). Remember, God

is Jehovah-Jireh, or "the Lord who sees and will provide" (Genesis 22:14).

God answers our prayers when we ask according to his will (Matthew 6:6-9) and he responds (Luke 18:7-8). He answers our prayers for daily bread (Matthew 6:11), for his will to be done (Romans 1:10; 15:32; James 4:14-17), for our troubles (Philippians 4:6-7), for open doors to preach



the gospel (Philippians 1:12-14; Colossians 4:2-3), for protection from adversaries (Romans 15:30-31; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2), for national leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2), for wisdom (James 1:5-6), for sickness (James 5:13-18), for health (3 John 2), and for vengeance (Revelation 6:9-11; 8:3-5). By his providential will, *"we shall both live and do this or that"* (James 4:15). Even in death, God will provide for his faithful children (Revelation 6:9-11; 14:3).

So then, what should our response be to God's providential care for his children? We should

trust God and know that he is *"able to make all grace abound ... having always all sufficiency in everything, may abound unto every good work"* (2 Corinthians 9:8). We should also be extremely grateful and thankful. The Psalmist wrote: *"Bless Jehovah, O my soul, And forget not all his benefits"* (Psalm 103:2).

Our study of God's providence should not be merely theological or theoretical. We should respond to God's providence in a practical way with proper living each day. Knowing that there is a God and he is alive and works providentially in our life, how should we live?

First, there are some things we should not do. We should never grow despondent or despairing knowing that God is in control of his creation (Psalm 42; 43). We should never engage in murmuring, complaining, or bitterness, knowing what God gives us in life (even negative things like chastening) is for our good (1 Corinthians 10:10).

Those "negative" things that God works through his providence, like suffering, sickness, tribulation, and discipline all work for our good and make us and those around us better (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14; 9:1; Luke 21:19; Romans 5:3-5; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Philippians 1:12-14; James 1:2-3, 12; 5:10-11; 1 Peter 1:6-9; 4:1-2, 16). We should never give into pressure, fear, or anxiety knowing that God's providential hand will provide and take care of us (Psalm 91:5-6; Mt. 10:28; Phil. 4:5-7). Peter wrote: *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God ... because he cares for you"* (1 Peter 5:6-7).

Finally, there are some things we should do. We should wait on God in humility and