

Divine Providence

From the London Baptist Confession of Faith (Chapter 5: Of Divine Providence)

God the good creator of all things, in His infinite power and wisdom, doth [does] uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all His creatures and things, (*Heb 1:3; Job 38:11; Isa 46:10-11; Ps 135:6*) from the greatest even to the least, (*Mt 10:29-31*) by His most wise and holy providence, to the end for which they were created, according unto His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will; to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, infinite goodness, and mercy (*Eph 1:11*) .

Scripture

“who being the brightness of [His] glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” (Hebrews 1:3 NKJV)

“When I said, ‘This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!’” (Job 38:11 NKJV)

“Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times [things] that are not [yet] done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’ Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken [it]; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed [it]; I will also do it.” (Isaiah 46:10-11 NKJV)

“Whatever the LORD pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places.” (Psalms 135:6 NKJV)

Commentary

Some people look at this attribute and are offended. One group is offended because they believe it steals from them their right to control their lives. The other group is offended because they believe it makes God look unfair, and they have a sincere desire to honor God by protecting His name. Likely, both groups are reacting to pride, the first being more aggravated than the latter.

However, God does not force anyone to do something he/she has not willed to do. How this is accomplished by God is a mystery, but the proof that He does it is confirmed by Scripture. “For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. . . .” (Romans 3:3-4 NKJV)

Scripture does not rob man of his will. Instead it makes man accountable for his every deed, even his every word. “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment.” (Matthew 12:36 NKJV)

Instead of taking a combative approach to this mystery, look at it in light of what it promises. If God has wrought a work of grace in your heart, you may be certain He is able to bring it to completion, “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete [it] until the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6 NKJV)

If we were left without the power of God to gently move us through history, we would certainly fall. “Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an

inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:3-5 NKJV)

My dear friends do not murmur against divine providence for it is the safe in which your treasure is kept for all eternity. Rather, marvel at God’s ability to control history while not doing harm to the will of man. That is truly a miracle.

Prayer

Eternal Father and King of Kings, we give you thanks for your loving kindness which you have chosen to bestow upon us your children. Thank you for working the miracle of salvation in our lives as without it we would all perish in our pride along with the devil. We do not understand, but marvel at your ability to control this world for your glory. Like a painter’s brush strokes, we can see the touch of divine providence throughout all of history. Now, may your will be done and not mine, amen.