

The Master is providentially interweaving the seemingly disconnecting strands of circumstances and live events in each of our lives in a way that is often difficult for us to perceive, but all of which are providentially perfect in the Master's sovereign hand and His perfect plan! (Ro 8:28, Gen 50:20). Charles Spurgeon tells a story which speaks to God's providential weavings in each of our lives...

I think it was Mrs. Hannah More who says that she went into a place where they were manufacturing a carpet. She said, "There is no beauty there."

The man said, "It is one of the most beautiful carpets you ever saw."

"Why, here is a piece hanging out, and it is all in disorder."

"Do you know why, ma'am? You are looking at the wrong side of the carpet!"

We looked last week at the two words (pro video) that make up the word providence, which we determined meant "to see." That gives us a good picture of the meaning of divine providence - God sees beforehand. When that understanding is applied to God, providence is then seen as closely related to God's omniscience (He sees all and knows all at all times). The distinction is that in His providence, God not only *sees* but acts upon what He sees. In other words, God *provides* for the future, which He alone can *see*! This transcendent, eternal truth will (or should) provide you comfort. However, the doctrine of divine providence might arouse anger or even frighten you, depending on what you believe about God the Father and Jesus His Son. Although theologians for centuries have hotly debated the ins and outs this topic, the questions we must ask of ourselves are "*Is God able?*" and "*Do I believe?*"

If our hearts are not settled upon God's providential care, His omniscience, His sovereignty and His ability, then we'll miss out on the glorious freedom and blessed assurance that stems from understanding those precious attributes.

I would liken the difference between trusting in God's divine providence and not trusting to being on an airplane with two different pilots. One pilot really isn't a pilot at all; he was simply grabbed from a group of people because he was the most qualified of those in contention to fly. How many of us on his plane would be able to relax and "enjoy our flight," knowing that we are only one hiccup away from certain doom and destruction. On the other hand, what if your pilot was one who had been flying planes for as long as there had been planes. Not only does he fly, he builds planes. Why, he even built the plane you are flying in. Not only does he have extensive flying experience and an incredible inside out knowledge of the plane, he also doesn't grow tired or weary from the trip. He doesn't get distracted. He can maneuver and outsmart any storm. He knows all the passengers on the plane by name and cares deeply for them. I could go on, but I think you get the picture.

Arthur Pink wrote: *The providence of God is His care of and provision He makes for His creatures, with His supervision and superintendence of them. The providence of God in His government of the world is a subject of deep importance to the Christian, for by proper views thereof he will learn to see God's activities in the daily works of His hands... Nothing is more **strengthening to faith, stabilizing to the mind, and tranquilizing to the heart** of a Christian, than for him to be enabled to discern his Father's*

hand guiding, shaping, and controlling everything which enters his life; and not only so, but that He is also governing this world, and all people and events in it... The advantages of a clear grasp of this foundational Truth of Divine providence are many.

Ten times out of ten, I want to be on the second plane because that pilot is wise, experienced, caring and is more than able to accomplish the task at hand. That is our God, folks. He is all those things plus SO MUCH MORE. For the sake of time, let's look at the following passages and see if you notice a recurring theme in them.

Daniel 4:37 is from the mouth of one of the greatest rulers in history after he had been humbled by God!

2 Timothy 1:12 are some of the last words of the greatest apostle in history as he prepares to meet his Maker.

Hebrews 2:18 are some of the most comforting words ever penned for those who are being tested and tempted.

Hebrews 7:25 are some of the most encouraging words ever written for those who wrestle with the doctrine of eternal security.

In all these verses you'll see a common theme – God is _____.

Steven Cole has some interesting thoughts in his sermon on "God's Providential Protection"...

"What rotten luck I've been having lately!" "I'm having a bad day!" "Oh, well, whatever will be will be, and there's nothing that we can do about it!" (The Spanish equivalent is "**Que Sera, Sera**" = "What will be, will be!" a beautiful but not Biblical song by Doris Day!) You've probably heard people say all of the above. Perhaps you've even said or thought something similar yourself at times. But all of those declarations are at odds with biblical truth, because each statement goes against the truth of **God's providence**. There is no such thing as luck or pure chance. If we have a bad day, it is because the Lord ordained these circumstances for our benefit. Bad days don't just happen! "Whatever will be will be" reflects a view of our circumstances as being caused by impersonal fate. The Bible often teaches and illustrates the doctrine of God's providence and it should be a source of great comfort and instruction for every believer. It means that God is not distant, passive, or unconcerned with the daily events in our lives. Rather, as our loving and caring Heavenly Father, He actively governs the daily events of our lives, usually behind the scenes, without in any way robbing us of the duty of making responsible choices... When we face trials and opposition in our service for the Lord, we should trust Him to protect us by His providence and to work out His sovereign plan for our lives... Deists deny God's providence by asserting that He created the world, but He is no longer actively involved in it. Others say that God is active in the events of the world, but that He is not sovereign over evil. Rather, evil is the result of free will. But the Bible teaches that God is actively controlling or directing even evil events and evil people in such a way as to accomplish His sovereign will, and yet He is not the author of evil and is not responsible for it (as **Eph. 1:11-note** states). But no evil person or act changes or thwarts God's sovereign will...