

Providence

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Introduction

1. Romans 8:28
2. There is much confusion about providence and miracles in the religious world and even within the church
3. This is a biblical subject, yet a most misunderstood study
4. This is really a beginning study of all that could be said about this subject, it would be a most interesting study on your own 2 Timothy 2:15
5. In this study we will find out what we mean when we say providence.

II Discussion

1. Meaning
 - a. God's provisions for us all arrangements that God has made to see to it that His ultimate will is done. Matthew 6:10; Romans 8:28
 - b. God never operates in a way that is inconsistent with His nature or His word.
 - i. God is righteous Psalms 119:137; 145:17
 - ii. God is holy. Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:3
 - iii. God is good Psalm 25:8; Romans 2:4
 - iv. God cannot act out of harmony with these attributes
2. God never forces a man to do good nor evil
 - a. Man has a choice Joshua 24:15; Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 22:17;
 - b. God has placed before man the good and the evil and he can choose which way he will serve. Deuteronomy 27:11-28:14; Romans 6:16-18
 - c. God can use the choices man makes to accomplish His purpose Isaiah 10:5-7; Genesis 50:20; Esther 4:10-17
 - d. The Lord opens doors we can choose to walk through them or not Revelation 3:8; 1 Corinthians 16:9
3. Providence is not a miracle
 - a. As seen above with Joseph (Genesis 50:20) and Esther (4:10-17).
 - i. There were events in their lives that brought them to certain places without any miracles being done.
 - b. A miracle is the setting aside of the laws of nature
 - c. Providence is God working within those laws
 - i. Must be careful here
 - ii. Actions that seem evil God means them as good Genesis 50:20
 - iii. The devil can work in the same way. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-11
 - d. God heals today!
 - i. It is divine healing, but it is not miraculous but according to natural laws.
 - ii. God has a healing team, doctors, nurses, hospitals, technicians, dieticians, blood donors, organ donors etc. and prayers of the saints Luke 5:31; Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18
 - e. The Holy Spirit operates

- i. Not miraculous on saint or sinner but through the word Ephesians 6:17 Acts 20:32; John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-13; 2 Peter 1:3
- 4. Providence is not fate or chance or deism
 - a. Deism is God created and then left the world to itself
 - b. In the case of Job, Satan was allowed to do some things
 - c. Not all that happens then is from God wither good or bad.

III Conclusion

- 1. God works in our lives today through providence
- 2. God works today in our lives through His word
- 3. Let His word sink deep into your heart to convict you of sin and then believe in the remedy for that sin.
- 4. Believe Repent confess and be baptized

Sources: Studies in 1 & 2 Thessalonians Philemon 1988 Denton lecture; The Providence of God Power lecture no date given