

Job #13 (Job 12)

Verses 1-3 – Job answers with sarcasm, saying Zophar has stated obvious

I. Job Teaches us That Providence is a Very Important Truth

- A. Our confession has it as 5th chapter – foundational yet misunderstood
- B. Job says this truth so evident that all of creation knows it (Vs. 7-10)
 - 1. Verse 8 – Even the fishes which can't speak declare it (Verse 8)
 - 2. But man doesn't know it- or knows it and represses it (Rom. 1:18, 19)
 - a. Instead speaks about luck, fortune or fate – Proverbs 16:33
 - b. Even Christians can be guilty of speaking in this fashion
- C. We can only do things if God allows it in His providence
 - 1. That is why we should say "if the Lord will" – James 4:13
 - a. Acknowledgement that everything we do is in God's providence
- D. This chapter teaches that nothing happens outside of God's providence
 - 1. Verses 9, 14, 15; 17-25; Exodus 21:13 (accidental death)
- E. And nothing we can do to reverse His providence – Numbers 23:20

II. Job Tells us That Nature is a Great Instructor of God's Providence

- A. Everything in nature is a testimony to us of God's providence (Prov 6:6)
 - 1. Jesus also taught that in sermon on Mount- Matthew 6:26-30
- B. First nature teaches us that there is a God- Rom. 1:19, 20; Ps. 19:1-6
- C. God's truths in scripture are also illustrated in nature
 - 1. I Cor. 1:27, 28 – God using base things – Fertilizing land
 - 2. I John 3:14; 2 Timothy 1:10- Life comes out of death- Winter, Spring
 - 3. Isaiah 40:6, 7- Life is short- like the grass of the field- James 4:14
- D. Nature teaches us that we are created to obey God's will- Ps. 148:7, 8
 - 1. Is. 1:2, 3 – nature bears witness of man's disobedience; Jer. 8:7
- E. Very events of Nature themselves are God's providence- V. 15

III. Job Gives Us Truths about God's Providence

- A. Verse 6- God's providence doesn't always make sense to us
- B. God is able to make things exactly opposite of what they should be
 - 1. He can make judges fools (V. 17) and the aged unwise (v.20)
- C. God can make things not do what they normally do
 - 1. Verse 14 – Can shut things so that no one can open
 - a. The womb (2 Sam. 6:23) the heavens (I Kings 17:1)
- D. In providence, God is able to make the possible, impossible
 - 1. Verse 14 – Can break something down- make it unbuildable
 - a. The temple, Sodom & Gomorrah, Jericho (Josh. 6: & I Kings 6:34)
- E. In providence God even controls evil – including the devil
 - 1. V. 16 – The Deceiver (Rev. 12:9) – Compare I Kings 22:19-23
 - a. Romans 11:8; Ezekiel 14:9
 - 2. 2 Tim. 3:8, 9; Matt. 24:24 – Controls who can be deceived and how far

Conclusion: How may we apply this truth to our lives?

- A. Realize as believers especially you are in God's hands – V. 10
 - 1. John 10:27-29; We can not even be taken from God's hands
- B. Understanding this doctrine should be a source of great comfort
- C. When people ignore this doctrine- causes them to become fools

D. This doctrine can be a most difficult doctrine for us to live out