

God's Providence and the Course of Your Life

Genesis 45

Doug Roman, Fourth Baptist Church
Sunday PM, March 27, 2022

Joseph was living in God's will at every point in his life. It may have been difficult for him to recognize this at every turn. God had a grand purpose for Joseph. God's hand was always orchestrating events though it remained invisible to Joseph—and it remains invisible to us as well.

1. Divine providence _____.
Let's observe two distinctions and a definition to understand divine providence.
 - A. Distinction #1: What is the difference between fate and providence?
 - B. Distinction #2: What is the difference between sovereignty and providence?
 - C. Definition. What is divine providence?
2. Divine providence _____ (Genesis 45).
Let's examine six unexpected evidences of divine providence in Joseph's life.
 - A. An Unexpected _____ (vv. 1-3).
 - B. An Unexpected _____ (vv. 9-15).
 - C. An Unexpected _____ (vv. 16-20).
 - D. An Unexpected _____ (vv. 21-24).
 - E. An Unexpected _____ (vv. 25-28).
 - F. An Unexpected _____ (vv. 4-8).
3. Divine providence _____.
Let's consider four directions to look to apply divine providence.
 - A. We look _____. This is _____.
 - B. We look _____. This is _____.
 - C. We look _____. This is _____.
 - D. We look _____. This is _____.

We can never separate God's _____ from His _____.

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The Belgic Confession (1561)[†]

Article 13. The Doctrine of God's Providence

We believe that this good God, after creating all things, did not abandon them to chance or fortune but leads and governs them according to His holy will, in such a way that nothing happens in this world without God's orderly arrangement.

Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

Question 27. What do you understand by the providence of God?

Answer. The almighty, everywhere-present power of God, whereby, as it were by His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth with all creatures, and so governs them that herbs and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, meat and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things come not by chance, but by His fatherly hand.

Westminster Confession of Faith (1646)

Chapter 5. Of Providence

5.1. God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.

Westminster Larger Catechism (1648)

Question 18. What are the works of providence?

Answer. God's works of providence are His most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures; ordering them, and all their actions, to His own glory.

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