

Second London Confession Chapter 5: Divine Providence

I. An Overview of Divine Providence (Par. 1)

- Author (Gen. 1:31)
- Framework (Jer. 10:12)
- Essence (Eph. 1:11)
- Extent (Matt. 10:29-31)
- Nature (Ps. 145:17)
- General Design (Col. 1:16, 17)
- Determining Causes (Eph. 1:11)
- Ultimate Goal (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14)

II. The Prominent Features of Divine Providence (Pars. 2-7)

→The Place of Means (Pars. 2, 3): If God is in control of all things, does what I do make any difference?

-Concession (Par. 2a); Assertion (Par. 2b): Providential determinations occur necessarily, freely, and contingently (Gen. 50:20; 1 Kings 12:15, 24; 22:28, 30, 34; Prov. 16:19); Qualification (Par. 3)

→The Problem of Sin (Pars. 4-6)

-If God is in control of all things, how can He blame me for my sins? (Par. 4) See 1 Kings 22:19-23; Is. 45:7; Amos 3:6; Hab. 1:13; Acts 4:28; Rom. 9:19-21; 11:32; James 1:13.

-What possible good can come from my sin? (Par. 5): Divine Desertion (Certain Fact, General Purposes, Practical Effects, Comforting Conclusion) See 2 Chron. 32:24-26, 31; Luke 22:31, 32; Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 12:7-9.

-Does God harden people in their sin? (Par. 6) See Ps. 81:11, 12; Rom. 1:24, 26, 28; 11:7, 8.

→The Preservation of the Church (Par. 7): What is the special relation of divine providence to the church? (Prov. 2:7, 8)

Practical Uses

- 1) The Greatness of God
- 2) The Goodness of God
- 3) Call to Repentance
- 4) Call to Joyful Confidence