

God's Divine Providence – Colossians 1

Bible Study

I. Defining Divine Providence

1. Read **Colossians 1:16**. Who created all things and who were all things created for?
2. What are the implications of the role of the Trinity in creation and redemption?
3. Read **Colossians 1:17**. Who holds all things together?
4. If God were to desert the world it would _____. That is what is meant by: "In Him all things are held together."
5. What do you make of the claim: "After creation has God entirely or partially withdrawn from the world and placed the world under the "laws of nature?"
6. We speak about God both in the sense of creation but also in the sense of _____.
7. What does Scripture mean when it says in **Genesis 2:2** God rested? (p.483)
8. Moses said God created by saying: "*Let the sea bring forth fishes; let the earth bring forth green herb, the beasts and etc.*"
9. All these words of God remain unto the present day in their _____ force.
10. Luther says: "We Christians know that creating and preserving are _____."
11. What are some ways in this "modern" time we have given way to the thought that the world rests in the hands of the laws of nature?
12. What does Jesus teach about the state of things in the world according to **Matthew 6:25 – 32**?
 - a) Take no thought of your life, what you will eat or drink;
 - b) Or about your body, what you will wear.
 - c) Who makes the sun rise according to **Matthew 5:45**?
 - d) What are has God left as witness to his providence in **Acts 14:17**?
13. Read **Acts 17:28**. How is it that we live and have our being? What does that mean?

II. Divine Providence and Sin

1. How involved is God in the action of moral beings (men and angels)?
2. What are the limits of the devil's power, can he know the mind and heart of men?
3. As to evil actions Scripture tells us...
 - a) God is _____ to them (see the 10 Commandments)
 - b) God often _____ them
 - c) When they occur they must _____ His good purposes.
(Joseph in Gen. 50:20)
4. Does God permit men to sin? **Psalm 81:12; Acts 14:16**

III. Divine Providence and Free Will

1. Do all events in the world occur just as they do occur, or could they happen otherwise? Scripture compels us to maintain both. From the viewpoint of divine providence the necessity obtains, and from the human viewpoint contingency.
2. Examples of the necessity: the betrayal of Jesus by Judas and His crucifixion by the Jews and Gentiles had to occur according to the determinate counsel of God. (See **Acts 4:27 – 28**)
3. Examples of contingent from human viewpoint: By warning Judas, the Jews, and Pilate, Christ sought to keep them from committing betrayal and murder. (**Matt. 26:24**). Jesus warned Pilate (**John 19:11 – 12**)
4. We teach both to avoid _____ and _____.

IV. “Whoever Does God’s Will” – Mark 3:35

1. Occam’s razor suggests in the narrow sense Jesus is talking about everyday _____.
2. Yet, Professor Rossow points out: “...that God has another wish, another _____ for us.” “God will have all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth” (I Timothy 2:4).
3. Professor Rossow affirms, “We may also do the will of God by being **caught up** in the exercise of His saving will for us through Jesus Christ and through the agency of the Holy Spirit.” (Gospel Handles, p. 123).
4. Understanding God’s will in a justification sense enhances the Gospel potential.
5. We are doing God’s will by being in the _____. By believing His Words of promise, hope, and forgiveness.