

"GOD'S PROVIDENCE"**Introduction**

1. A wonderful text:
2. 3 parts + a fourth part
3. Our concern: God's providence

1. WHAT WE MEAN BY GOD'S PROVIDENCE

- 1) Definition + explanation
- 2) Three aspects of it:
 - (i) preservation: God's care
 - (ii) cooperation: God's energy
 - (iii) government: God's control of events
- 3) The goal of God's providence: His own glory
APPLICATION: If this is God's goal, it should be ours
APPLICATION: Let us take seriously the absolute sovereignty of God – as Paul here does

2. THE WONDER OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

- 1) It keeps going all that God has created
ILLUSTRATION: the movement of the earth, etc.
- 2) God looks after all that He has made
ILLUSTRATION: population growth / food supply / restraint on sin / human governments
- 3) The rise and fall of world-powers
- 4) Exploration + discovery
ILLUSTRATION: "The New World"

- 5) Progress of science:
ILLUSTRATION: medical progress, etc.
- 6) The spread of the gospel:
ILLUSTRATION: The 18th Century "explosion"

3. MYSTERIES OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

- 1) God's permission of sin to enter
- 2) God's use of sinful men to do His secret will:
ILLUSTRATION: Judas Iscariot
- 3) God's turning evil events to work out for good:
ILLUSTRATION: Joseph
- 4) God's perfect timing of events:
ILLUSTRATION: The crucifixion on the Passover
- 5) The 3-fold salvation of sinners
 - (i) Jews
 - (ii) Gentiles
 - (iii) Both
- 6) The perfect fulfilling of prophecies:
ILLUSTRATION: So many in Christ's life
- 7) The bringing of the gospel to each elect person at the right time + in the wisest way: e.g.
 - (i) The woman of Samaria
 - (ii) The Ethiopian Eunuch
 - (iii) Lydia at Philippi, etc**APPLICATION**: Was it not so with you?

4. THE PERFECTION OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE

- 1) It perfectly does what God intends.
- 2) It will bring in a New Universe at last = providence completed.

CONCLUSION

How true is this TEXT!

PSALM
33: 8 – 14
75: 4 – 10
104: 32 – 35