

The Providence of God



Lord's Day 10
Heidelberg Catechism



Heidelberg, Germany

A Quick Overview

I. Misery

II. Deliverance



God the Father

God the Son

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Sacraments

Holy Baptism

The Holy Supper of Jesus Christ

III. Gratitude

The Ten Commandments

The Lord's Prayer

From November:

#26: What do you believe when you say, “*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth*”?

That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ the Son. I trust God so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends upon me in this sad world. God is able to do this because he is almighty God and desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.

Tonight's Questions:

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

28. How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

#27: What do you understand by the Providence of God?

The almighty and ever present power of God by which God upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

A God of Everywhere!

“Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 23:23-24

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us...

Acts 17:24-27

The Power of Jesus Christ

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. **Hebrews 1:3**

“Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” **Acts 14:15-17**

Lord of All

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. **Proverbs 16:33**

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
And not one of them will fall to the ground
apart from your Father. **Matthew 10:29**

#28 How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

We can be patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love. For all creatures are so completely in God's hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.

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Lord over Satan

And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. **Job 1:12**

And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.” **Job 2:6**

Lord over Good & Bad

And he said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

Job 1:21-22

And you shall eat and be full, and you shall
bless the LORD your God for the good land
he has given you. **Deuteronomy 8:10**

... for you know that the testing of your
faith produces steadfastness. **James 1:3**

...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is
the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

I Thess. 5:18

In Our Sufferings

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. **Romans 5:3-5**

The Life of Prayer

Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. **Psalm 55:22**

...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Our Great Confidence

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Wrap-up thus far...

- The providence of God means that he is indeed Almighty God. Absolutely nothing is outside of his will and sovereignty in this world and universe.
- We can face all circumstances in life with gratitude, confidence, and patience as we wait on the Lord of All.

Tonight's Take-home:

It is not insignificant that the Providence of God was foundational to those who settled in the American Colonies, for it was both a theological lodestone[attraction] and lodestar[guidance] for early American Christians under the most difficult of circumstances.



Let us pray...