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Chapter 1 : The Providence of God | Precept Austin

Providence, then, is the sovereign, divine superintendence of all things, guiding them toward their divinely predetermined end in a way that is consistent with their created nature, all to the glory and praise of God.

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform; He plants His footsteps in the sea, And rides upon the storm. Deep in unfathomable mines He treasures up His bright designs And works His sovereign will. Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds ye so much dread Are big with mercy and shall break In blessings on your head. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace; Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face. His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour; The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flower. Reportedly this is the last hymn William Cowper ever wrote, and here is the story that is said to be behind it. Cowper often struggled with depression and doubt. One night he decided to commit suicide by drowning himself. He called a cab and told the driver to take him to the Thames River. However, thick fog came down and prevented them from finding the river another version of the story has the driver getting lost deliberately. After driving around lost for a while, the cabby finally stopped and let Cowper out. God had sent the fog to keep him from killing himself. Even in our blackest moments, God watches over us. Yes, whether this story is true or not, in either case we can rest assured that our God ever watches over us dear tried and afflicted saints. During the night of January 18th, he had terrible dreams and hallucinations. In the middle of these nocturnal terrors he came to the insane conclusion that God had commanded him to take his own life in the manner of Abraham wielding his knife against his son Isaac. Apparently ignoring the point that in the Bible God intervened to prevent the fatal blow from being struck, Cowper attempted to obey this imaginary command. His suicide was thwarted by the action of Mary Unwin. She sent for Newton in the small hours of the morning. God sovereignly works in and through the everyday, non-miraculous events of life to effect His will. Such a God, of course, is great beyond our imaginings because He maintains all of life, involves Himself in all events, and directs all things to their appointed end while rarely interrupting the natural order of life. He is far greater than our imaginings because He arranges all of life to suit and effect His providence. This makes all of life a miracle. God provides and controls in three grand arenas—history, nature, and the lives of individual people. The prophet Jeremiah sang of it: Paul gave it this cherished expression: Christians, the most important thing about you is what you believe about God. What you believe defines you. What you believe determines how you live. So I must ask, do you believe with your whole mind and heart that God is all-powerful? Do you believe with everything in you that God is spatially and specially present with you? Do you believe wholeheartedly that he knows everything, even your inarticulate words and thoughts before you say them? Do you believe that God is absolutely sovereign in all of life? And you are ready to live. Hannah More who says that she went into a place where they were manufacturing a carpet. You are looking at the wrong side of the carpet! The distinction is that in His providence, God not only sees but does! In other words, God provides for the future which He alone can see! This transcendent, eternal truth will or should provide you comfort. However, the doctrine of divine providence might arouse anger or even frighten you, depending on what you believe about God the Father and Jesus His Son. Although theologians wax long and eloquent on this topic, in simple terms, the pivotal questions are "Is God able? Believe it, Christian, nothing occurs here without the permit or the decree of your Savior—He that has gone to prepare a place for us by his presence has prepared the way to that place for us by his providence. There is no such thing as luck or pure chance. If we have a bad day, it is because the Lord ordained these circumstances for our benefit. It means that God is not distant, passive, or unconcerned with the daily events in our lives. Others say that God is active in the events of the world, but that He is not sovereign over evil. Rather, evil is the result of free will. But the Bible teaches that God is actively controlling or directing even evil events and evil people in such a way as to accomplish His sovereign will, and yet He is not the author of evil and is not responsible for it as Eph. Thus God did not just design the laws of science and

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nature and step away from them. Rather, He actively maintains such laws. For example, the Bible says that God causes the rain and snow to fall on earth, along with the wind to blow and the lightning to flash Job God also gives food to the wild animals and birds Ps. God governs what we might call random chance events, such as the casting of lots Pr. Also, God causes things to happen where His creatures also play a role. For example, I may water and fertilize my grass or a farmer his crops, but God causes them to grow. I can put water into the freezer, but God makes it freeze Job God also governs human affairs. He determines the time, existence, and boundaries of the nations Acts He sets up rulers and takes them down again Da 4: He governs every aspect of our lives Jer. He is even sovereign over evil, although He is not tainted in any way by it nor is He responsible for it Ge But He uses evil men and events to carry out His sovereign plan, even as He is doing in our story with this evil plot to kill Paul. If we live in a world of random chance, it is a most scary place to be! Thus, God has a sovereign plan for each of us. God carries out His sovereign plan through His often behind-the-scenes providence. Finally, Trusting God to work sovereignly through His providence does not mean being passive or doing nothing. There was a famine in Bethlehem. What would have happened if God had not allowed a famine in Bethlehem? Would Ruth the Moabitess ever have ended up in Bethlehem? Beloved, do you believe that He is working "behind the scenes" in your life? Well, He is, whether you believe it or not! God has not "checked out," regardless of what you are experiencing. He is loving and caring. And He promises to complete the good work He has begun in you Phil 1: Let the truth of the doctrine of divine providence permeate your mind and your heart, for as Jesus promised, you will know the truth and the truth will set you free! Chapter 2 of Ruth finds Naomi venturing into the grain fields to glean food for her and Naomi. In other words, there was no sign saying "This field is property of Boaz. And so in the providence of God, Ruth the Moabitess is brought into and is specifically included by Matthew as one of the three women named Tamar, Rahab, Ruth in the line of the Messiah Mt 1: But not if God is sovereign and providentially in control of even the number of the hairs on our head or the demise of a sparrow. The English dictionary says that coincidence is the occurrence of events that happen at the same time by accident, but seem to have some connection. The world describes as mere coincidence the a remarkable concurrence of events or circumstances without an apparent causal connection. As you might surmise, there is not a single use of the word coincidence in all of Scripture! God providentially ordered her steps. While providence supports, That hand which bears all nature up Shall guide His children well. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this? He knows that if the Jews are exterminated, the line of the Messiah will be eradicated and Jesus could never become Man and He would never redeem man from his sin and its wages, eternal death! As alluded to above, the doctrine of providence permeates the pages of Scripture, despite the fact that most translations never actually use the word providence! How many of the troubles and perplexities of life proceed from want of providence! In theology, providence is the care and superintendence which God exercise over His creatures. He that acknowledges a creation and denies a providence, involves himself in a palpable contradiction; for the same power which caused a thing to exist is necessary to continue its existence. Some persons admit a general providence, but deny a particular providence, not considering that a general providence consists of particulars. A belief in divine providence, is a source of great consolation to good men. First, it delivers the Christian from being carried away by the tide of public opinion. Few things have a greater tendency to lead Christians into error, than the apparent success of public opinion. People in general judge of a cause by its seeming success, and often Christians are greatly influenced by this pernicious principle. Opinions spread by infection, rather than by a thorough investigation of the evidence. But an accurate acquaintance with the ways of Providence, as revealed in Scripture, is calculated to deliver from this prejudice. There we discover that God has often granted much "success" to His enemies, and by it they were hardened in their rebellion. Second, a proper acquaintance with the grand truth of Divine Providence, should also be of real help in guarding us against having recourse to artifice and deceit, in the propagation of the Truth.

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Chapter 2 : Hymn: All the way my Savior leads me

Divine Providence is the means by which God governs all things in the universe. This doctrine asserts that God is in control of all things, and stands in direct opposition to the idea that the universe is governed by chance or fate.

There are leaders from my personal life such as a former pastor, a former boss, a high school principal and leaders in my own community who have influenced me as I have watched their leadership. I also love to learn from a great athletic coach. I have been known to choose the teams I support by the coach that leads them. It is so needed these days – especially in our churches. The principles, however, which I admire most are found in the leadership style of Jesus. Here are 12 leadership principles of Jesus that inspire me: Jesus was willing to invest in people others would have dismissed. Jesus released responsibility and ownership in a ministry. Consider how Jesus sent the disciples out on their own. No micro-management it appears. Jesus had a leadership succession plan. Jesus practiced servant leadership better than anyone. The King of kings was willing to wash the feet of His followers. Jesus was laser focused on His vision. Regardless of the persecutions or distractions, Jesus kept on the mission God had called Him to complete. Jesus handled distractions with grace. When the woman who had been bleeding for 12 years touched His garment, Jesus stopped to heal her, even though headed to a definite purpose. Jesus was into self-development. Jesus constantly slipped away to spend time with God. Jesus was into leadership development and replacement. He very purposefully prepared the disciples to take over the ministry. He pushed people beyond what they felt they were capable of doing. Jesus held followers to high expectations. Jesus was not afraid to make huge requests of people. He told the disciples they must be willing to lose everything to follow Him. Jesus cared more about people than about rules and regulations. Jesus celebrated success in ministry. He rewarded people generously who were faithful to Him and His cause. Any questions whether His ministry was effective? Any other reasons you admire the leadership of Jesus?

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Chapter 3 : Knowing God's Will

the providence story In , we set out to create a different kind of church for the Golden Triange- a church that wasn't just for church people. We wanted to create a place that was welcoming, helpful, and maybe even a little fun for everyone.

Follow your interests and always be on a path of related Christian teachings. An innovative online bible study. Hello from Word Universe, Inc. To use the study, you need to upgrade to a browser that supports frames pages, such as Internet Explorer or Netscape. The text below explains the study. The Bible study on Jesus Christ uses a novel Bible study methodology involving three interconnected Bible study levels, plus a 3-dimensional Word Universe level. Each of the interconnected Bible study levels is a type of webpage. Links on the Christian Teaching pages take you to the Christian Teaching Interrelations pages, links on the Christian Teaching Interrelations pages take you to the Gospel Episode pages, and links on the Gospel Episode pages take you back to the Christian Teaching pages. Begin by studying a particular teaching of Jesus Christ, in its various forms in various gospel episodes, on a Christian Teaching page. Then go to its Christian Teaching Interrelations page and see how other Christian teachings tie in. Clicking the Core Interrelations link at the top of any Christian Teaching or Christian Teaching Interrelations page will show the Christian teachings most closely related to the subject Christian teaching of that page, and how they are related. The Bible Study on Jesus Christ offers Core Interrelations as a quick and powerful way of learning the interrelations between the teachings of Jesus Christ. Next, review the Gospel Episodes themselves from which the Christian teaching interrelations were derived and gain new insight into how the teachings of Jesus Christ work together in life. And then start seeing how other Christian teachings are related to that one. This occurs naturally over time, so just let it gradually happen on its own. It takes a while to find your way around the Bible study on Jesus Christ and get accustomed to the inner logic. So play around and experiment all you like. This guide can be reached from any page of the Bible study. For a very abbreviated Bible study guide, which serves as a quick memory jogger, click the orange-lit skyscraper on the top-lef of the screen. Along the way, you may wish to explore the Word Universe click the sky above the city. We are interested in your questions, comments, opinions, and ideas about this online Bible study on Jesus Christ, the Word Universe software, Christian teachings, and Christianity in general. Send email to mailbox worduniverse. The frames If you would like to have a free licensed copy of the Bible Study on Jesus Christ for your own computer, go to worduniverse.

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Chapter 4 : The Invisible Hand: Coming to Grips With God's Providence | Keep Believing Ministries

I mention this partly because I want you to understand that they are probably mentioned the way they are because God wants us to appreciate the great expanse of time in different situations through which He put Abraham, and Abraham responded in the right way.

Listen Archives Podcast More Providence Is the Hand of God What is providence? Providence is the means by which God directs all things – both animate and inanimate, seen and unseen, good and evil – toward a worthy purpose, which means His will must finally prevail. Or as the psalmist said, "his kingdom ruleth over all" Psalm There are three words we need to keep in mind before we can properly understand the providence of God in relationship to the material universe and to man in particular. The first word is creation. We understand by "creation" that God, by His fiat word, spoke this universe into existence. The only way that you and I, certainly as Christians, will ever understand how this universe began is by faith. We understand that God brought this universe into existence, and the only way that we know this is by revelation. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" Romans Then the second word is preservation. The Lord Jesus Christ runs the universe. He upholds all things by the word of His power. The third word is providence. Providence is the way that God is directing the universe. He is moving it into tomorrow – He is moving it into the future by His providence. Providence means "to provide. On Golgotha the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. He was the Lamb that God provided. He was "the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" John 1: Providence means that the hand of God is in the glove of human events. When God is not at the steering wheel, He is the backseat driver. He is the coach who calls the signals from the bench. Providence is the unseen rudder on the ship of state. God is the pilot at the wheel during the night watch. As someone has said, "He makes great doors swing on little hinges. The Lord pinched little Moses and he let out a yell. The cry reached the heart of the princess, and God used it to change the destiny of a people. That was the hand of God.

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Chapter 5 : Providence Is the Hand of God - May 1, - Thru the Bible with Dr. J. Vernon McGee

"You alone are the LORD You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.

September 19, Robert Musgrave It was a strange thing to say at a barbecue. In some ways it was a strange barbecue. Certainly, there has never been one like it since. It is after the death and resurrection of Jesus. In one of these exchanges, Jesus turns to Peter, young, strong, virile, with a whole life of opportunity ahead of him, and says these sombre words: Then he said to him: I met Blah Blah the other day. Yes, he is locally known as Blah Blah. I guess in younger days he had a lot to say. I have known him for many years, as he owned a property across from Providence. A shop front that he did up from time to time, though never much happened there; and a flat above. In his active days he was a decorator and odd jobs man. On this occasion he was walking across the car park. Slowly and between two sticks he made his way, with pauses. He said, almost with a smile, that he finds getting around difficult these days. By these days he meant he was now the good age of Back to the barbecue. The heart of it was service, service to others, service to God. It would also include getting old. The telling phrase in this conversation, though, is the one that Jesus so often dropped in. It is very simple, perhaps also very hard, but always essential: Jesus says the same thing to us:

Chapter 6 : The Providence of God (Part 3)

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He does this for our good and his glory. He is not the author of sin, yet evil serves his purposes. He does not violate our free will, yet free will serves his purposes. I hope that clears up any misunderstanding! Providence Illustrated With that as background, we turn to consider the story of Joseph. If you are acquainted with the Bible at all, you have heard his story somewhere along the way. It goes something like this. Because Joseph was the favored son of his father Jacob, he was the object of envy by his many brothers. One day his brothers conspired to sell him into slavery to the Midianites who happened to be passing by. They then showed the coat to Jacob, who believed their lie and sorrowfully concluded that Joseph was dead. Meanwhile Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Midianites. Genesis 39 tells us that Joseph gained favor with Potiphar because the Lord was with Joseph to bless him. Eventually Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his entire household, which included the land, care of the property, and oversight of the other slaves. This was a signal of honor for a Hebrew slave. Joseph refused, pointing out that he could not betray Potiphar and he would not sin against God. The woman persisted, to the point that one day when everyone else was gone, she attempted to pull him down on her bed. Joseph fled from the scene, leaving his cloak behind. The woman was humiliated and accused him of rape. It was a false charge, of course, but Potiphar believed his wife and had Joseph thrown in prison. From Prison to the Palace And in prison Joseph prospered once again and gained the respect of his fellow prisoners and of the guards. This happened because the Lord was with him to bless him. Eventually the cupbearer and the baker were thrown in the same prison and Joseph befriended them. One night they both had dreams they could not interpret. The dreams came true exactly as Joseph had predicted—the baker was hung but the cupbearer was released. Two years passed and Pharaoh had a dream that he could not interpret. Joseph correctly interpreted his dream and was rewarded by Pharaoh, who made him the Prime Minister of Egypt. Not bad for a Hebrew slave who had been sold into slavery by his brothers! Eventually a famine settled on the Near East. Jacob told his sons to go to Egypt and buy some grain. Then Joseph reveals his true identity. They are shocked and then scared because they betrayed him and now he is in a position to get even. In fact, he stuns them with these words: And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God Genesis The brothers go back to Canaan and tell their aged father that Joseph is still alive. He makes the trip and is reunited with the son he had given up for dead many years ago. The family settles in Egypt and lives in peace there for many years. Finally Jacob dies at the age of These are the words of a man who believes in the providence of God: Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives Genesis The King James Version translates verse 20 this way: It just means that God is able to take the evil actions of sinful men and use them to accomplish his plans. He understood that behind his conniving brothers stood the Lord God who had orchestrated the entire affair in order to get him to just the right place at just the right moment in order to save his whole family. Think about the implications of that statement: At just the right moment his brothers threw him into the cistern. At just the right moment the Midianites came along. At just the right moment he was sold to Potiphar. At just the right moment he met the baker and the cupbearer. At just the right moment the cupbearer remembered Joseph. At just the right moment Pharaoh called for him. At just the right moment he was promoted to Prime Minister. At just the right moment Jacob sent his sons to Egypt. At just the right moment the brothers met Joseph. At just the right moment Pharaoh offered them the land of Goshen. At just the right moment they settled there and prospered. Providence frees us from bitterness. This is clearly the message of Genesis If ever any man had the right to get even it was Joseph. If you really believe God is at

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work in your situation, you can just stand back and let God do whatever he wants to do. Providence gives us a new perspective on our tragedies. That perspective might be stated this way: God is involved with us even in the worst moments of life. Most of the time we are simply left to wonder why these things happen. Ologunde died so suddenly"? He can bear the burden of all our unanswered questions. Providence gives us courage to keep going in hard times. Because God is there, we know that he cares for us, even when life is tumbling in all around us. Last Monday night I was in my study when a man suddenly knocked on my door and came in about 9: He was weeping as he sat down. He mentioned that he had been listening to WMBI. It contains this seven-word phrase: But it does tell us that there is a pattern to the seemingly random events of life and that God is designing something beautiful out of that which now seems to be only a chaos of clashing colors. Life is hardâ€”make no mistake about that, but God is good. Let me read the last few paragraphs they wrote: And yet, even in this tragedy, we can rejoice. As one of our physician colleagues pointed out, Dr. Ologunde is not taking pain medication nowâ€”or will he ever again. If given the chance, he himself would not come back, for he is in a far better place. Ologunde was a man of spiritual maturity and integrity. His faith in Christ was intense and genuineâ€”and a challenge to us. He encouraged a wholistic approach to patients that would never neglect the spiritual side of those who come to our hospital. Can he be replaced? Was it a mistake for Dr. Ologunde to have agreed to serve in that remote location? We count ourselves privileged to have worked for a short time with this man. It greatly enriched our first months in our medical ministryâ€”and we will miss him. Please remember to pray for the ministry of Egbe and Evangel Hospitals, and for their leadership. If God is not there as we lay our loved ones into the ground, if he is good even then, if his plan is not being worked out when our loved ones are taken from us, then there is no hope for any of us. Providence forces us to make a choice by faith. The older I get the more I understand that faith is a choice, not a feeling. But faith is a personal choice we make to believe that God is good and that he can be trusted in every situation. Faith rises above feelings to choose to believe even when our circumstances may argue against it. Providence helps us understand why Jesus died. Listen to these amazing words from Acts 2: But who crucified him? Remember that Peter is preaching to the men who participated in that evil deed.

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Chapter 7 : 25 Bible verses about Providence

It is not any kind of faith that justifies us, but faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross. I hope you can see the reason we have backtracked to Romans 5. The reason we have backtracked is because before we can claim that Romans applies to us, we need to be sure that Romans 5 describes us.

Coincidence or Providence? September 29, Esther 4: Read the whole book of Esther. Is there such a thing as coincidence in your life as a growing Christian? Can you just happen to be in the right place at the right time? And what about the wrong place at the wrong time? Or does God control and guide your destiny--even the people you meet and the places you visit and the particular times involved? The answer to the question above is both simple and complex. It is simple because the straightforward one-word answer is "Providence"! The Bible teaches that God is not only sovereign in controlling all things at all times, but is actually programming and guiding events in accordance with His eternal purposes. However, the answer to the question of coincidence or Providence is also very complex. That is, it is complex from the human perspective because of our finite limitations. How far God allows the sinful will of man, as well as the will of Satan, to operate in this world in specific instances is not easily determined. Again we must acknowledge, "How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! When and where God interrupts His natural laws by miraculous, supernatural intervention is not always clear. We do know, however, that "the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much" James 5: So while the biblical answer to our original question is Providence - and not coincidence or chance in any way, shape or form - we must acknowledge that our comprehension of this answer is far from complete. Read Psalms and An appreciation of Providence is one of the benefits that come to growing Christians when they read the book of Esther. Providence is the over-all theme of this Old Testament book. Although we do not find the name of God mentioned even once in the book of Esther, throughout the book we are conscious of God working things together behind the scenes to accomplish His purposes. In fact, the concept of Providence is actually enhanced in Esther because God chose not to put His name in the headlines, but rather everywhere between the lines! There is a great practical lesson here for us. Many times God does not show Himself up front in His dealings with us, and yet we can be sure that He is silently and continually at work in our lives to accomplish His good purposes. The events of the book of Esther took place around BC in the land of Persia where the country of Iran is today. The Jews had been forced to leave their homeland as captives many years before BC , when the Babylonian army under Nebuchadnezzar had conquered their nation, destroyed Jerusalem, and burned the Temple. After Babylon fell to the Persians in BC, the Persian king, Cyrus, issued an edict which granted permission to the Jews to return to the land of Judah. About 50, Jews returned to Jerusalem at that time. However, many other Jews chose to remain in the vicinity of Babylon and other areas of the expanding Persian Empire. Some of the Jews prospered under Persian rule, and a few even held political office. Daniel and Nehemiah, for example, held high positions in the Persian government. See Daniel 6 and Nehemiah 1. However, there was also a significant amount of anti-semitism at this time, as Esther 3: It was in this historical setting that Haman, a high government official and the villain of the story, was confident that his scheme to kill all the Jews of the Empire would be carried out 3: Naturally speaking, it looked like all hope for the Jews was gone. The die was literally cast 3: And it just worked out that the beautiful Esther happened to be "in the right place at the right time" and was selected as the new queen. Is it not possible that God has sovereignly ordained your good looks or unique abilities so He can use them in a special way for His glory? Think of all the factors that "just happened" to fall into place for Esther. This is especially significant when we learn from extra-biblical sources that Xerxes I was a very cruel, moody and temperamental emperor. This fact is helpful in understanding verses like Esther 4: In passing it should be noted that God in no way placed Esther in a compromising situation. Her night with the king was not an act of fornication 2: Xerxes I was a polygamist, but Esther was not an adulteress. Never think in terms of coincidence or chance or accident, but rather Providence. Meanwhile,

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Mordecai "just happened" to overhear a plot to assassinate King Ahasuerus. This information was passed on to the king through Esther and it was documented in the royal chronicles 2: It "just happened" that one night King Ahasuerus could not sleep. He decided to pass the time by reading the royal records. Now about this time wicked Haman arrived at the palace in order to request permission to hang Mordecai. Haman hated this faithful Jew because he refused to bow down to any mere man, even the exalted Haman. The king asked Haman, "What should be done for the man whom the king desires to honor? Little did he dream that the king had Mordecai in mind. And guess who had to lead the parade for Mordecai? Esther had come to the conclusion that she must act on behalf of her people even if it cost her life. Just because Esther was providentially brought to her influential position did not mean that life would be easy or that God would not test her faith. God tests our faith! Are you being severely tested right now in the position where God has placed you? Can you by faith say, as Esther said, "If I perish, I perish" 4: This was almost unbelievable! God is still able to do "exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think" Ephesians 3: Incidentally, what would you have asked for if half the Persian Empire had been offered to you?! Of course, from the divine perspective it was Providence all the way. The new decree which countered this "law of the Medes and Persians" not only resulted in the preservation of the Jews, but in the elimination of many anti-Semites! The feast of Purim, that is still observed annually by many Jewish people, originated as a celebration of these events. All these events were the result of Providence - they were not coincidence! Events in our lives today are not governed by coincidence or chance.

Chapter 8 : Divine Providence, or What About Miracles? - SLJ Institute

Congregational singing Grace Community Church - Sun Valley, California Text: Fanny Crosby All the way my Savior leads me; What have I to ask beside?

Providence and Salvation Romans 8: But this promise comes with a condition, "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. The promise applies specifically to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. It is important to note that Paul connects the conditions of loving God and being called according to His purpose in this verse. From beginning to end, the Bible declares that the very reason we are able to love God in the first place is because we have been called according to His purpose. Is the call of God like an invitation? When we call our pet, there is no guarantee that the pet will come. The call of God, by contrast, is like what we see in the call of Jesus to the corpse of Lazarus. Lazarus, who had been "in the tomb four days" Jn. And we read that, "he who had died came forth" Jn. You see, the call of God has the power to produce what it commands. This understanding of the call of God is also confirmed for us in the passage we are studying. This cannot be resisted. The inward call of God is not an invitation. When God calls you, He also justifies you, and when He justifies you, He also glorifies you. For only if I am justified in the eyes of God can I claim the promise that God is causing everything in my life to work together for good. If we turn back to Romans, chapter 5, this is what we read, "Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" 5: Here we learn a number of things. To say that we are justified by faith is to say that we are not justified by good deeds. Getting into heaven has nothing to do with your exemplary church attendance, your generous contributions to charity, or your good morals. Justification is the result of faith. And just as faith leads to justification, justification leads to peace with God. Now if peace with God is one of the results of justification, this implies that there was a time when we were not at peace with God. And this inference is confirmed for us in Romans 5: What is amazing about justification is that we, who were enemies of God, are handed a peace treaty-a peace treaty resulting from God-given faith and not our own good works Eph. What kind of faith is this that justifies us? We are given a clue in 5: It is not any kind of faith that justifies us, but faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross. I hope you can see the reason we have backtracked to Romans 5. The reason we have backtracked is because before we can claim that Romans 8: The first great truth is that, if you have been justified, God has promised to cause everything in your life to work together for your good. The second great truth is that, if you have been justified, God promises to finish that work by glorifying you in heaven. There are some in the Christian Church that suppose that salvation can be lost. Some suppose that, after having faith in Christ, we have the ability to ultimately turn away from Him. Those who believe this do not understand providence. God will see that those He predestines are called, He will see that those He calls are justified, and finally, He will see that those He justifies are finally glorified in heaven. Those who suppose that our salvation can be lost have also failed to understand Romans 8: When Paul says that God is causing everything to work together for our good, he means our spiritual good. I hate to burst your bubble if you have imagined Romans 8: Understanding the context of Romans 8 as I do, I do not expect all things to work together to increase my earthly comfort, but I do expect to all things to work together to increase my faith in Jesus Christ. As Charles Spurgeon once wrote, "I do not know that it is for my good that I should be respectable and walk in good society; but I know that it is for my good that I should walk humbly with my God. I am not certain that it is altogether for my good to have kind and generous friends, with whom I may hold fellowship; but I know that it is for my good that I should hold fellowship with Christ, that I should have communion with him. An excellent analogy for this is prescription medicine. As I look into my medicine cabinet I see that each medicine contains numerous chemicals. And some of these chemicals, if I were to take them separately, would be detrimental to my health. But the chemist, knowing how the chemicals react with one another, mixes them in such a way that the compound of these chemicals brings relief to my body. In the same way, we should not

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question God on one particular act of His providence. There is no promise in Scripture that says that everything that happens to us will be good. No, when God promises good for us, the Bible is not talking about individual events, but about a Divinely wrought mixture of the total sum of our experiences. Paul is promising that God, who began the work of salvation in you, is governing your life in such a way, that every event is preparing you for heavenly glory. The worst thing I could lose is not my wealth; it is not my physical health; and it is not even my family. The worst thing I could lose is my salvation. The worst thing I could lose is eternity with my Lord. Thankfully, we have a promise from God. He who called us, has justified us, and He who justified us promises to glorify us in heaven. As we count our blessings, as we consider the providence of God in our life, remember that there is nothing better than the provision of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

Chapter 9 : THE PROVIDENCE STORY | Providence Church

Authoritative information about the hymn text All the Way My Savior Leads Me, with lyrics, MIDI files, PDF files, printable scores, audio recordings, piano resources, and products for worship planners.

But how can that be when Jesus says no one comes to the Father except through him? Do children automatically go to heaven? Can people serve God without knowing it? Bible Gateway interviewed Dr. What was the impetus for you to write this book? Christians lost the battle in the public square over gay marriage because, frankly, we were outthought, outfought, and outmarketed on the issue. If we as Christians waffle and waver on this foundational belief, then we have absolutely no message to share with a lost world. What Bible passages have led you to the conclusion that believing in Jesus is the only way to heaven? Certainly the most foundational passage is John Jesus could not have been more clear: If the universalists are correct in saying that everyone is going to be in heaven regardless of what they believe, or the pluralists are correct that all religions lead to the same god, then the horrific death of Jesus Christ was completely unnecessary. The only reason Christ submitted himself to the horrendous experience of bearing the sins of the entire world is because his death provided the only way for reconciliation with God. As I demonstrate in my book, the consistent teaching of the entire New Testament is that faith in Christ provides the only way of salvation. For example, consider the teaching of the Apostle Peter. Remember, Peter was a Jew, speaking to a group of Jews, claiming that there is no salvation for Jewish people or anyone else apart from faith in Jesus Christ. Because of the consequences of that belief if it is indeed true. To many people, such a claim is offensive. Yet, Jesus clearly taught that the majority of humanity will spend eternity in hell, and only a few will find the exclusive way to salvation. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. The idea that there is only one way to be reconciled with God has its origins in the Old Testament. The Old Testament message of exclusivity can be seen in five themes found in the Old Testament: Cain, however, tried to approach God in his own way and was rejected by God Genesis 4: From that point on, Cain became a symbol of those who try to approach God on their own terms. What are some of the common objections to the exclusivity of Christ you explore in the book, and how do you answer each one? Here are some of the common objections to the teaching that only Jesus Christ offers the exclusive way to heaven: Various religions offer a variety of theories about life, death, and eternity. And yet, as different as all religions are, they share one common characteristic: Christianity alone teaches that our only way for reconciliation with God is by his grace that is received through faith. Romans 1 teaches that everyone has received a natural revelation of God through creation. The illustrations of the Ethiopian eunuch Acts 8 and the Roman centurion, Cornelius Acts 10 illustrate that truth. I share five scriptural insights that lead me to the conclusion that those who are incapable of trusting in Christ on their own are still welcomed into heaven the same way you and I are welcomed into heaven: And if Jesus was wrong about this, then one could assume that he may have been wrong about a number of other issues of which he spoke. God is also holy and just. The willingness of God to sacrifice his Son to reconcile us to himself is a demonstration of his love for us. What do you say to critics who call you intolerant because of your Christian faith? Would you charge me with being intolerant because I insisted there is only one way out of the house? The only reason I would try to rescue you is because I care about you. What do you hope will be the result for people who read this book? I hope those who read Not All Roads Lead to Heaven will be strengthened in their own convictions about the exclusivity of Christ for salvation. This book is an easy way to share your faith in Christ with others in a non-threatening way. My prayer is that God will use Not All Roads Lead to Heaven to help Christians rediscover and reclaim the truth that Christ offers the only hope of heaven for those who trust in him. His daily radio program, Pathway to Victory, is heard on more than stations nationwide, and his weekly television program is seen on thousands of cable systems and stations in the US and in nearly countries around the world.