

Acts 23:12-35

-The Providence of God

**-Unwilling alliance of unwitting
forces + undesirable
circumstances**

**= God's means of fulfilling His
purpose.**

-“This narrative passage contains no doctrinal truths or practical exhortations; it merely recounts an event in Paul’s life. Yet no passage of Scripture could more clearly illustrate the providence of God.”

-“...how shameful then is our sluggishness, when as we scarce move one finger in maintaining the glory of God? We must use moderation, that we attempt nothing without the commandment of God; but when God calls us expressly, our loitering is without excuse.”

- Vows of incitement**
- Vows of exaggeration**
- Vows made in error**
- Vows that cannot be fulfilled
by reason of constraint**

-“Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor, and whereas both houses of Congress have by their joint committee requested me ‘to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by the acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.’”

-“Mr. Steube, what any religious tradition ascribes as God’s will is no concern of this Congress.”

-Romans 1:16 (ESV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**-Philippians 3:8 “For his sake I
have suffered the loss of all
things...”**

-“Paul laid his plans as energetically as if Jesus had not promised that he would see Rome.”

-“...each servant of Jesus may be as well assured, as was Paul the prisoner, that the Lord shall ‘keep him from all evil,’ and that if his life is ‘witness’ it will not end till his witness is complete...Paul trusted Jesus’ word that he should be safe, whatever dangers threatened, but that trust stimulated his own efforts to provide for his safety.”

**-God has called us to ACTIVE
obedience and trust, not
passive.**

-The Providence of God

-Esther 6:1-12

-Philippians 3:7-11 (ESV) 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith-- 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

-Romans 8:28-31 (ESV) 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose...31 What then shall we say to these things? *If God is for us, who can be against us?*