

Acts 17; Lord's Day 10

I BELIEVE IN FATHER'S PROVIDENCE

- I. His sovereign control.
 - A. Two common misconceptions concerning God's sovereign control.
 - B. But the biblical truth of providence declares that God has total and constant control of all creatures and events.
 - 1. His providential power is "almighty" and "everywhere present" so nothing escapes Him (Ps. 24:1; 139).
 - 2. The scope of His providence includes "heaven, earth, and all creatures."
 - C. Sin always denies this truth, making man to be lord of himself and his possession.
 - D. But "He giveth life and breath to all things" (Neh. 9:6); feeds man and beast, and takes away their breath (Ps. 104:27,29).
- II. God governs all things with purpose.
 - A. His purpose is His own glory and the good of His elect people.
 - 1. Faith enables believers to know our Father's end for all things is His own glory (Rom. 11:36).
 - 2. And faith enables us to know that all things work together for good to them who are called according to His purpose.
 - B. These two purposes always go together and they never contradict.
 - C. Father's purpose for His children.
 - 1. In time it is to bring salvation to them, giving us the Spirit, faith, and sanctification.
 - 2. His eternal purpose is to bring us to glory with Himself.
- III. The proper response of faith is joyful gratitude, and trusting patience (enduring).
 - A. The believer is patient in adversity.
 - B. And we are thankful in prosperity.
 - C. And we should be confident about the future, not anxious: place firm trust in our faithful Father.