

PROVIDENCE

The Naturalists have made a great impact upon our generation. A Naturalist is one who holds to the position that, all events in nature are ruled by independent natural forces. They do not see God as ruling in the affairs of men, or nature. They talk not of providence. Christians talk very little about providence also. This was not the case of early Christian writers; they spoke often of providence, and even debated the issue at great length.

The Westminster Divines in the Seventeenth Century defined providence in this manner: “God, the great Creator of all things, doth uphold, direct, dispose and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, according to his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will, to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.” When they spoke of the providence of God they were saying, we believe what God creates, he also sustains.

The universe is not only dependent upon God for its origin, it depends upon God for its continuity of existence. Our universe, in which we live, cannot exist nor operate by its own power. It is God by His divine providence that upholds all things by His power. In Him we live, move, and have our being.

He rules His creation with absolute sovereignty and authority. It has been noted, that God governs everything that comes to pass, from the greatest to the least. Nothing ever happens beyond the scope of His sovereign providential government.

In a universe governed by God, there are no chance events. Chance is powerless. It is only a word to describe a mathematical possibility; it has no power to do anything because it is nothing. It is not an entity.

The doctrine of providence is a stress of God’s government over the universe. There is a great and crucial difference between providence and fate. The difference is that fate is a word that describes something impersonal, while providence describes something personal (has being), God.

Scripture: King James Version: Job 38:1-41; Daniel 4:34-35; Acts 2:22-24; Romans 11:33-36.

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