

# The Godly Man's Portion & Sanctuary

## Lesson 6: God's Providence Will Never Fail to Work Our Good

Because Rom 8.28 is such a great encouragement to godliness in all conditions, we need to consider several points concerning it: 1) what things are included in "all things," 2) what the "good" is toward which all things must work, 3) to whom all things will work for good, 4) how all things will work for their good, 5) that all things will undoubtedly work for good to them that love God.

- I. All things *will undoubtedly work for good* to them that love God. Besides the testimony of Rom 8.28, we can prove this by the following propositions.
  - A. There *is* a divine providence that governs the world, Ps 17.13-14; 36.6; 67.15-16; 75.6-7; 97.1; Dan 4.35; 6.26-27.
  - B. The design of God's providence toward you is the *accomplishment* of His purpose for you and His promise to you.
  - C. The providence of God shall never fail to accomplish its end in our lives because He is *God* in His providence and works accordingly. Therefore:
    1. God manages His providence by His power.
      - a) The One who rules on the earth dwells in heaven as God Almighty and does whatever He pleases, Ps 115.3; Isa 43.13.
      - b) There are no difficulties or impossibilities with God. There's no difference between hard or easy and no more likelihood of success with means than without them. He can save with many or with few, and with none as well as with some. We read in Scripture that God once had too many, but never that He had too few to do His work, Jdg 7.2.
      - c) Whatever God has said, He will do. But believe He is *God*, and you'll never say, "How can these things be?"
    2. God manages His providence by His wisdom.
      - a) He is the only wise, all-wise God, Rom 11.33; 16.27. He knows how to deliver the godly out of their temptations and troubles, 2Pet 2.9. He knows what's good for the saints and when a blessing will be in season. He understands what's proper and pertinent and appropriate and suitable in every case, for every person, in every season. Thus He knows the best means to His end, and sometimes the most unfit, unlikely, unpromising means is the best means to serve His end.
      - b) He knows when it's right to humble and right to exalt, when it's right to afflict and right to deliver, when to put on the yoke and when to take it off, when to pull down and when to build up. He knows how to make everything beautiful in its time, Ecc 3.1-8.
      - c) If mercies come *out of season*, then mercies would be no mercy, Jn 11.20-21; and if troubles come *in their season*, then troubles should be no trouble, Ps 27.1-3.
      - d) "Christians, if you would receive every dispensation as coming from the hands of the wise God, you'd never quarrel with your lot, nor say of anything that befalls you, "I might be happy if this didn't stand in my way." If you'd but give God leave to be wiser than you, you'd say wherever you are, "It's good for me to be here. This is the way to my rest."
    3. God manages His providence by His faithfulness, Ps 25.10; 111.7-8. God's works are done in faithfulness in two ways.
      - a) In reality. God's works are not in show only, but in deed and in truth. His comforts are real comforts, 2Cor 1.3-5. His salvation is salvation indeed, Isa 43.2-3.

- (1) The devil comes with his comforts and deliverances, but like him, they are apparitions and a very different thing than they appear to be, Jn 8.44; 2Cor 11.14. The comforts, joys, and deliverances by which the devil feeds his own leave them in a worse case than he found them. You'll never thank the devil for his kindness when you've seen them to be what they are. But God is true and all His works are done in truth and faithfulness.
  - b) In faithfulness. God's works are according to His Word, 1Kgs 8.24; Ps 119.65. He afflicts us according to His Word no less than He comforts according to His Word, Ps 89.30-32; Heb 12.6; Jn 16.33; 2Cor 1.5.
    - (1) The promise of God is that we will lack nothing that we need, Ps 34.10; Phil 4.19. That means, when we need them, we won't lack His staff or His rod, comforts or crosses, joys or sorrows. We can't tell with any certainty which we need at any given time, but He can and He promises us that He'll give us what we need when we need it—because He is faithful to us and true to His Word.
    - (2) We may not only say with Paul, "God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability" (1Cor 10.13), but we may also say, "God is faithful, and will not let us lack a temptation we need," 2Chr 32.31.
    - (3) When it's seasonable, your heart shall be glad; but when it's seasonable, your heart shall be heavy, because God is faithful to the promise He made to you, Rom 8.29. If He were false to do for you what He proposed and promised, then He would be false to Himself, which He cannot be.
  - D. Therefore, if we put these three things together, there's no other conclusion possible than that the providence of God *will certainly accomplish* His good purpose and promise to us.
    1. Because if God governs the world and nothing comes to pass but by His providence, and if His providence is governed according to His purpose and promise, then providence cannot fail to accomplish both.
    2. And if God be almighty and *can* do it, all-wise and knows *how* to do it, and faithful and true to *do* it, then it's impossible but that He will certainly do all that good for you which He's purposed and promised to you, Jos 23.14;
    3. *Do you believe this?* If you lack the comfort of this promise, it can only be because you don't believe it. For God cannot but be good and cannot but be true to His Word and decree. — So let the almighty, all-wise, ever-true God be your God and you'll never lack the peace, comfort, and assurance of Rom 8.28 being fulfilled in your life.
- II. A few words of caution and two objections. *Next week.*