

## ***The Ongoing Miracle of God's Providence***

*"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose'" (Isaiah 46:9-10).*

In his 17th-century treatise on the doctrine of providence, presbyterian pastor John Flavel concluded that: "The providence of God is like a Hebrew word – it can only be read backwards." For God's providence is very much a mystery... And it's only when we look back over our lives that we find some of the answers and reasoning behind why things occurred the way that they did. Of course, we won't fully understand why everything in our lives happened on this earth; some things we won't have answers to until we are at the feet of Jesus. However, I am absolutely convinced that everything has a purpose attached to it. And that purpose being that nothing happens unnoticed by God himself. Therefore, we as His people can take great comfort that God truly is working all things out for the good of those who love God and who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

The late great Bible teacher John MacArthur defined and rejoiced in God's providence by writing: "Providence is an old term theologians use to describe the fact that God works everything according to His own will (Ephesians 1:11). God ordains and orchestrates the millions of contingencies in the universe to execute His own will perfectly. As I've said many times, providence is a greater miracle to me than a supernatural wonder. If God stops natural process and injects a miracle, He accomplishes His will by a direct, unmistakable show of power—and that is easy to understand. He created everything, so He can stop the natural operations of the universe and supernaturally, directly accomplish His will. But by His providence, He uses millions of contingencies—billions of people making billions of choices, the demons and satan actively opposing Him through their system in the world, the physical factors of creation and its complexity—to accomplish His will. He uses all things to bring His own purpose to pass."

Because God's providence will come to pass and because God's providence for us in Christ is for our good and for His glory, what should our response be to this great truth?

- 1.) Don't try to understand everything... God is smart enough and can work it all out for good. The end goal is going to be accomplished. And the end is better than the beginning. Have faith in the Providential Hand of God.
- 2.) Rest. Let me say that again... "Rest." God has you and won't let you go, no matter the circumstance, and so lay your head on the comforting pillow of providence.
- 3.) Marvel at the miracle of God's providence... That somehow some way, beyond what we can see God is at work! God is working through both the good and the bad that we see before us.

And so, when mass shootings happen way too close to home. A war is springing up in the Middle East. And the world seems out of sync... Remember and rejoice in the doctrine of God's Providence. The truth that God has it all figured out, because put simply, He is "God, and there is no other."

Respect the Blood,  
Dalton Mathis