

The Providence of God

by Landon Jostes

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." – Genesis 50:20

One of the most perplexing yet most comforting doctrines that the Bible teaches is that of God's providence. An understanding of God's providence provides the framework in which to comprehend that overlap between God's absolute sovereignty over all creation and the freedom of the will of man. How can Jesus be "delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God" and at the same time these lawless men who crucified and killed the Savior be held responsible for their actions by God (Acts 2:23)?

A right understanding of God's nature and character begins to shed light on these hard and difficult questions. For the works of God's providence are firmly grounded in the character of God. God is perfectly holy. "The LORD is righteous in all his ways and holy in all his works" (Ps 145:17). God is all-wise. "O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all" (Ps 104:24). God is all-powerful. "[Christ] upholds the universe by the word of his power" (Heb 1:3). God's character is not divorced from his works. The fullness of God's character is seen in his most holy, wise, and powerful works.

These works of God's providence are his preserving and governing all his creatures and all their actions. In God's preserving work, he sustains the life of all and provides for their every need. Jesus says of the Father in Matthew 5:45, "For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." Both the wicked and the righteous depend upon God's preserving work of providence. Has God not put eternity in the heart of man (Ecc 3:11)? Yet the wicked scorn the name of God by not giving praise and thanks to the God who preserves their very lives.

In God's governing work, God is working all things "together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose," even the sinful actions of the fallen human race (Rom 8:28; cf. Acts 2:23). For God permits, bounds, and overrules the sinful actions of his creatures for the purpose of accomplishing his holy and good ends. Is this not what God did with Pharaoh to demonstrate his power which would be proclaimed to the ends of the earth (Rom 9:17; cf. Josh 2:8-11)?

O what comfort there is in these works of providence for those who love God! Become students of God's providence. Keep a journal of God's handiwork in your life. And keep the Scriptures close by, for you "will never observe providences aright, if ye do not observe their harmony with the word" (Thomas Boston). Depend upon God in his Word, and look to God in his works of providence.

WSC Q. 10, What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

May 2026

Sundays Weekly:
Prayer Meeting- 8:00
Sunday School- 9:00
AM Worship- 10:15
PM Worship- 5:30

Highlights for June:

- Ultimate Frisbee and Park Day 6/6
- PCA General Assembly 6/22-26

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Food Ministry- 9AM	2
3	4 May the fourth be with you!	5 Women's Bible Study- 9:30-10:45AM	6 Women's Bible Study- 9:30-10:45AM MidWeek at WPC 5:15-7:00PM	7 Carpenters Apprentices- 6-7AM	8 Food Ministry- 9AM	9 Women's Hymn Sing 9:30AM
10 Mother's Day Lord's Supper- AM	11	12 Women's Bible Study- 9:30-10:45AM Presbytery at WPC (all day) Women's PM Bible Study- 6:30-8:00PM	13 Women's Bible Study- 9:30-10:45AM MidWeek at WPC 5:15-7:00PM	14 Carpenters Apprentices- 6-7AM	15 Food Ministry- 9AM	16 WPC Coffee House 3-5PM
17	18	19 Women's Bible Study- 9:30-10:45AM Session Meeting 5:30PM	20 Women's Bible Study- 9:30-10:45AM MidWeek at WPC 5:15-7:00PM	21 Carpenters Apprentices- 6-7AM	22 Food Ministry- 9AM	23
24 Lord's Supper- PM	25 Memorial Day Missions Meeting- 5:30-7:00 PM	26 Women's Bible Study- 9:30-10:45AM Women's PM Bible Study- 6:30-8:00PM	27	28 Carpenters Apprentices- 6-7AM	29 Food Ministry- 9AM	30

Key: BLUE- Church Wide Events | PURPLE- Bible Studies | ORANGE- NextGen | GREEN- Children's Events | BROWN- Food Ministry | RED- Meetings | BLACK- Holidays

Quarterly Communion Offering: One Hopeful Place-a shelter for men and women that provides transitional housing and emergency shelter services while guiding unhoused individuals towards stability, self-sufficiency, and independence.

Missionary Highlight:



Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

The Martins

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, Chaplain Shane Hardesty

The Good News Jail & Prison Ministry reaches out to inmates across the United States, providing them with pastoral care and spiritual direction. They believe in the potential for change, the promise of redemption, and the value of every human being. Our local area chaplain working with Good News Global is Rev. Shane Hardesty. Please keep him in your prayers as he enters the jail weekly to minister to the lost people that live without hope. Pray for the hearts of the inmates to come to Christ and that Bible programs would be held regularly so inmates can learn the truths of the gospel.

David and Jill Martin, MTW, Odessa Ukraine/Brasov Romania

Pray for wisdom for the Martins' church plant as they brainstorm ways to serve and evangelize their Ukrainian and Romanian community in Brasov. Please pray that Dave, Jill, and Ruth Anne would obtain their temporary residency status in Romania and in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for wisdom for world leaders as they pursue this goal.

How can I support Missions?

PRAY for our Missionaries | **GIVE** to Missions | **GO** on a Missions Trip | **JOIN** the Missions Team

Local:

- Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, Chaplain Shane Hardesty

National:

- Presbyterian and Reformed Chaplain Corp (PRCC)
- Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at UF, Pastor Steve Lammers
- Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at FSU, Pastor Kelly Jackson

International:

- Middle East Reformed Fellowship, Pastor Victor Atallah
- Brenda Carter, MTW San Yi, Taiwan
- Chris and Savanna, MTW (sensitive)
- Franklin and Beth Beaver, MTW Worldwide
- David and Jill Martin, MTW Odessa, Ukraine/Brasov, Romania
- Ang Bahay Parola (The Lighthouse) Children's Home, MTW Manila, Philippines
- Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Kyiv, Ukraine
- Perry and Betty, MTW (sensitive)
- Robert and Lisa Stewart, MTW Nagoya, Japan
- Verne and Alina Marshall, MTW Santiago, Chile
- John and Lu Elliot, IXO Nicoya, Costa Rica
- Donny and Courtney Harwood, MTW Glasgow, Scotland