

## **Systematic Theology - Lesson 8**

### **Doctrine of Providence (Part 2)**

#### **1. Review of Providence (Lesson 7)**

Providence refers to God's almighty, ever-present power by which He:

- Upholds heaven, earth, and all creatures
- Governs all events
- Preserves creation
- Works in and through all things
- Directs everything to His appointed purpose

Attributes of Providence:

1. Preservation – God sustains all things.
2. Concurrence – God works through all actions.
3. Government – God directs all things.

#### **2. Key Questions of Providence**

- How do sovereignty and human freedom work together?
- If God is sovereign, why are humans accountable?
- How can God be good while evil exists?

#### **3. Three Biblical Propositions**

##### **I. God Is Absolutely Sovereign**

- Ps 115:2–3; Ps 135:6; Ps 139:16; Dan 4:34–35; Eph 1:11
- God directs natural processes and human rulers.
- God is sovereign over evil but never the author of it.

##### **II. Humans Are Morally Responsible**

- Our choices are real; we are accountable.
- God commands all people to repent (Acts 17:30–31).

##### **III. God Is Perfectly Good**

- God is light; no darkness is in Him (1 John 1:5).
- God is righteous and good (Ps 92:15; Ps 145:9; James 1:13).

#### **4. Compatibilism: How the Truths Fit Together**

- God is sovereign.
- Man is responsible.
- Both are taught in Scripture and are compatible.

Carson's Two Statements:

1. Sovereignty never cancels responsibility.
2. Responsibility never makes God contingent.

#### **5. Biblical Examples**

- A. Joseph – Gen 45:4–8; 50:20.
- B. Job – Job 1:20–22.
- C. Jesus – Acts 2:22–24; Acts 4.

#### **6. Application**

- A. Look at the Cross – Rom 5:6–9.
- B. Look at the End – Rev 21:3–4.

#### **7. What to Do with Evil (John Piper)**

1. Expect Evil – 1 Pet 4:12
2. Endure Evil – 1 Cor 13:7
3. Give Thanks in Everything – Eph 5:20; Rom 5:3–5
4. Hate Evil – Rom 12:9
5. Pray for Escape from Evil – Matt 6:13
6. Expose Evil – Eph 5:11
7. Overcome Evil with Good – Rom 12:21
8. Resist Evil – James 4:7

#### **8. What NOT to Do with Evil**

1. Never Despair – Eph 1:11
2. Never Give in to the belief that life is random – Rom 11:33–36
3. Never Yield to the thought that God is unjust – Ps 145:17
4. Never Doubt that God is for you in Christ – Rom 8:32