

Providence In Our World

Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen, Hebrews 11.1. Now, please focus on the last part of the verse and make the connection to the reality of providence. Right now, in ways we cannot see, *God is working all things for our good*, Romans 8.28. God is working on every level to get those who have chosen Him, back to Him to dwell with Him throughout eternity. God is not detached or removed. He is not far away. He is right here in the middle of it all ... in the same way that He has worked with His people from creation. We may not see these things in the present ... but we have been simply called to trust Him.

I. How God Worked to Provide Perfect Fellowship

- A. How does the Bible describe Eden?
 1. Genesis 1.31; 3.8 - it was a place of perfect provision.
 2. Genesis 3.22 - it was a place where time would not have been measured.
 3. Genesis 2.9-15 - it was a place where every need would have been met.
 4. Genesis 2.18-24 - it was a place designed for perfect marriage and family life.
- B. But then, Satan tempted ... and Adam sinned.
- C. God was not caught flat-footed.
 1. Genesis 3.15b: *He will strike your **head**, and you will strike his heel.*
 2. There was a day coming where Jesus would strike a deathblow to Satan.

II. How God Worked to Provide the Perfect Sacrifice

- A. Romans 5.6 - *at the **right time**, Christ died for the ungodly.*
 1. This was something preplanned. It's on a scale beyond our comprehension.
 2. Ephesians 1.4: *For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and **blameless** in love before him.*
 3. Romans 5.6c *Christ **died** for the ungodly.*
 4. Romans 5.10b: *having been reconciled, we will be saved by **his** life.*
- B. Romans 5.12 - if we can believe that just one man (Adam) is the source of all sin, we can believe that just one man (Jesus) is the source of all salvation.
 1. Romans 5.18: *So then, as through one trespass there is condemnation for everyone, so also through one righteous act there is justification leading to **life** for everyone.*
 - a) 5.19 - by Jesus' obedience ... **many** will be made righteous.
 - b) 5.21 - sin reigned in death ... but **grace** will reign through righteousness...

III. How God is Working to Restore us to the Ultimate Fellowship

- A. 4 passages to focus on:
 1. Revelation 21.3 - *God himself will be with them and will be their God.*
 2. Revelation 21.27 - *Nothing **unclean** will ever enter it,*
 3. Revelation 22.3 - *There will no longer be any curse.*
 4. Revelation 22.5 - *We will **reign** with God forever and ever.*
- B. How is he working at this exact moment to bring this closer to reality?
- C. We can't possibly comprehend what all He is doing right now ... but we trust in faith.

Conclusion: He is reaching out to you. Will you let go and allow Him to come along side?