

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## The Hand Of Providence

**Ephesians 1:9-14**

Sunday, September 22, 2019

The Bible is clear in its teaching that God is, always has been and will continue to be directly and closely involved in our lives.

### **GOD'S CLOSENESS TO US**

As Paul was reasoning with the people of Athens, he explained to them that although they did not know Him, God was very near to them, and in fact was only as far away as they made Him, for God is ready and willing to be a part of any life that is willing for Him to be. Then Paul made a statement that I want you to hear. He said,

The Scriptures affirm this fact over and over.

**Acts 17:28** notes, **"in him we live, and move, and exist..."** NLT

**Colossians 1:17** explains that **"He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together."** NLT

**Hebrews 1:3b** declares that **"he upholds the universe by the word of his power..."** NLT

The word "uphold" in the Greek language means "to carry something from one place to the next. In other words, Jesus is not just holding everything together, He is carrying all things along, actively involved in bringing events to pass so that our lives fulfill His purposes.

### **THE REASON FOR HIS CLOSENESS**

God is at work in the world for one purpose. That purpose is to glorify and exalt Himself. Everything that happens happens for that reason.

### **Ephesians 1:9-14**

**<sup>9</sup>God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ - which is to fulfill his own good plan. <sup>10</sup>And this is the plan: / At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ - everything in heaven and on earth. / <sup>11</sup>Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.**

**<sup>12</sup>God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. / <sup>13</sup>And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, / he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. <sup>14</sup>The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us / the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.**

God wants to glorify Himself. On its face, this comes across as the height of arrogance. The question is "Why would God strongly warn us against seeking glory for ourselves, when He Himself is always seeking it for Himself?" Because when He gets the glory, we get the blessing; when we seek our own glory, life for us falls apart.

Ever hear of Fab Morvan and Rob Pilatus? Two guys who desperately sought after glory in the entertainment industry. They were lured by wealth and fame to deceive the public as they lip synced songs that became blockbuster hits. (Milli Vanilli) When they were exposed, it all went up in flames. They lost both fame and fortune.

When you seek God's glory, His providence will bring you nearer to Him, and it will keep you. *Jim Wilson, in a publication called "The Commission," tells the account of two missionaries who risked imprisonment by smuggling 300 Bibles into a nation with a government hostile to any Christian witness. They were able to evade the authorities and safely deliver their cargo. Unfortunately, dropping off the Bibles created a whole new set of problems. Their van had barely cleared a low tunnel on the way into the country, only because the weight of the Bibles pressed down on the suspension. Without the extra weight the van would now be too tall. They knew they were in trouble when they noticed the vehicle raising up as the Bibles were unloaded.*

*On the way back they prayed about what they should do. The authorities forced them to stop at a checkpoint before reaching the tunnel. Before they were cleared to pass on toward the tunnel, they were ordered to transport four very large soldiers who needed a ride. The weight of the soldiers more than made up for the weight of the Bibles, allowing the van to pass through the tunnel with room to spare.*

**"The providence of God will be with you as you deliver His Word. Then, any weight the enemy places on you will only help to get you to your place of destiny."**