

Biblical Foundations for Ministry

The Work of God: The Provider

1. God the Provider

- a. God takes care of the things he created
 - 1) Creation (Psalm 104:1-9)
 - 2) Providence (Psalm 104:10-30)
- b. God maintains the stability and operation of the universe and the forces of nature (Col. 1:17)
- c. God supplies the basic necessities for living creatures (Psalm 104:10-28; Matt. 6:25-34)
- d. God determines when life begins and ends (Psalm 104:29-30)
- e. God is actively involved (no Deism)

2. Sovereign oversight

- a. God manages the activities and movements of his creation (Psalm 103:19)
 - 1) Some things are directly caused by God (miracles)
 - 2) Some things happen naturally under God's permission
 - 3) Some things are not permitted by God (Psalm 33:10-11)
 - 4) In all things God is sovereign
- b. God oversees the workings of nature
 - 1) Weather (Job 37:11-13; 38:22-23)
 - 2) Animals
 - a) Sending a lion to attack (1 Kings 20:35-36)
 - b) Causing a fish to swallow a man (Jonah 1:17; 2:10)
- c. God oversees the activities of mankind
 - 1) The rise and fall of nations and rulers (Dan. 2:20-21)
 - 2) The movement and success of armies (Psalm 33:13-17; Isa. 46:10-11; Hab. 1:5-6)
 - 3) The boundaries and duration of nations and empires (Isa. 14:24-27; Acts 17:26)
 - 4) The plans of our hearts (Prov. 16:9)
 - 5) Everything we do is "Lord willing" (1 Cor. 16:7)

3. Prayer and thanksgiving

- a. Divine providence and prayer requests
 - 1) The basis for prayer requests
 - a) An atheist would not pray at all
 - b) An agnostic could pray, but wouldn't know what to expect
 - c) A Deist could pray (praise), but no prayer requests
 - 2) The basis for praying about any concerns (spiritual and physical needs)
- b. Divine providence and thanksgiving
 - 1) The basis for gratitude for every good thing (1 Thess. 5:18; 1 Tim. 6:17)
 - 2) The basis for thinking of blessings, not luck (Prov. 16:33)

