
The Westminster Confession of Faith

Week 5 ~ Providence

5:1 PROVIDENCE

Providence or Sovereignty is God's preserving and governing of creation (contra deism)
Scope of His providence is ALL THINGS
Basis of His providence is His decree (Ephesians 1:11)
The purpose of His providence is His glory (Ephesians 1:6)

5:2, 3 PROVIDENCE AND SECOND CAUSES

Providence is consistent with second causes, their nature
God's providence is not bound by second causes – He is free to work without, above,
or against them

5:4 PROVIDENCE AND SIN

Providence includes the first sin, the fall of man, and all other sin
God permits these sin AND directs and controls them to His purposes
God is not the author of sin, nor does He approve of it

5:5 PROVIDENCE AND HARDSHIPS

Providence sometimes includes the removal of restraining grace, e.g. Job, James 1:2-4
He does so for a reason; not arbitrary

“There is no circumstance, no trouble, no testing, that can ever touch me until, first of all,
it has gone past God and past Christ, right through to me. If it has come that far, it has come
with a great purpose.” ~ Alan Redpath

5:6, 7 PROVIDENCE AND RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

Providence sometimes removes restraining grace as punishment, e.g., Romans 1
Providence always governs things for the good of His people (Ephesians 1:22)

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