The Providence Of God
Ps. 37:25

• “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”

• God provided generously for his people
Introduction

• In the Sermon On The Mount Jesus talked of God’s care for the bird’s and the lilies of the field

• Jesus also spoke of God’s care for those who seek first the kingdom of God

• Jesus was talking about the providential care of God
I. The Definition Of Providence

• It is God’s **provision** for what he has made

• “God’s providence, hardly understood by the wisest man, is able to accomplish things which are beyond human comprehension and power.” Bob Winton
I. The Definition Of Providence

• How could Joseph go from prison to second in command in Egypt?
• How could Esther become queen of Persia?
• What about the life of Paul?
I. The Definition Of Providence

• “It is sufficient for us to believe in his providence; it is not essential that we be able to comprehend its operation.” Bob Winton

• “God’s providence never wars against the free moral agency of man.” Robert R. Taylor, Jr.
I. The Definition Of Providence

• God’s providence today does not require the miraculous or the supernatural.
II. General providence

• 1. **Laws** of sowing & reaping
• Gen. 8:22
• “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”
II. General providence

- 2. Sunshine and rain
- Our world abounds with food, water, air etc.
Mt. 5:45

- That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.
II. General providence

- 3. God has provided marriage and the home & the wicked enjoy this blessing as well as the righteous
  - Gen. 2:18
  - “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”
II. General providence

• 4. Civil **government** is provided by God
Rom. 13:1-2

• Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.
II. General providence

5. God enables man to make money

- Ecclesiastes 9:11 “but time and chance happeneth to them all.”

- General providence is a blessing for all of mankind
III. Special providence

• God’s love, care and concern for those who seek to do his will
• This is the concern God has for his children
• We see God’s providence throughout the O.T.
III. Special providence

• The promise to Abraham --- which culminated in Christ, the cross and His church was God’s special providence at work.
III. Special providence

- The Book of Acts shows how events were worked out by God for the conversion and masses of men and women.
- Romans through Jude reveal God’s working on behalf of the saved.
III. Special providence

- We see God’s special providence in the revelation and preservation of His Word
III. Special providence

- The main purpose for special providence is for man’s spiritual well being
- God may allow financial hardship, illness, and other physical trials that are for our spiritual benefit
III. Special providence

- Man’s cooperation is **required**!
- The promise of God’s care does not mean that we do **nothing**
- We must both **pray** and work for our food
Mt. 6:11

• Give us this day our daily bread.
For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.
III. Special providence

- We must work out our **salvation** while God helps us
Phil. 2:12-13

- Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.
1 Pet. 3:10-12

• For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.
Conclusion:

1. The providence of God is one of the most precious teachings in all the Bible