

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Seeing God's Hand in our Lives

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Scripture: **Acts 23:12-35**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

Have you had a bad day when there seems to be one unfortunate item after another? The situation seems to spiral out of control, and in the bad news of the day, your attitude darkens. You can fail to see God's involvement in your life on a day like this.

Conversely, you have one of the best days of your life, when your morning starts out wonderfully and your day seems to fly by smoothly without any conflict or problems. Do you fail to remember God's involvement in your life during this type of day?

In both these scenarios, and every day of our lives, we need to remember that **the doctrine of providence helps us to see God in every part of our lives.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Proverbs 16:33; Nehemiah 9:16; Psalms 104:10-15; Genesis 45:5; Genesis 50:20-21; Romans 11:36; Proverbs 16:9; Matthew 6:25-34; Matthew 10:28-31; Romans 8:28

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Worthy of worship. Only Jehovah God holds this privileged position. There is none like YHWH, the name He gave Himself. How does understanding who God is, straighten or balance your thoughts in your relationship with God?
2. Understanding God's providence affects our image of God. In this week's text, Paul understood his call by God. Even though his life was marred by betrayal, struggles, pain, and the prophecy of his own death, he never questioned God's plan for him or felt abandoned. Paul intimately loved his Savior. How has your love and worship for God deepened as you have grown more in this doctrine?
3. As you regard God's sovereignty and man's responsibility, which do you personally rely on more—God's movement in our lives or our faithful response?
4. How should we pray, believing in the sovereignty of God?
5. Our lives can be painful, messy and there are times we don't see a favorable outcome. How does understanding God's providence personally affect your "bad day", "bad year" or everything else in between? Do we think about it or focus on our circumstances? Do we consider providence when life is going well? In light of God's sovereignty, and Romans 8:28, how should we be comforted when our lives take a difficult turn?