

Upcoming Events

Add to Your Membership Directory (Inadvertent Omission)

Aaron & Esmeralda McCollum
(Melinda Alissa)
33834 Palm Lake Circle
Thousand Palms, CA 92276
Aaron's phone: (760) 889-7191
Esmeralda's phone: (760) 609-1777

Meet Up Class

Monday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.
28561 Sunnyslope St.
Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

November Birthdays

10 Daniel Brown

November Anniversaries

2 Shannon & Susan Hudson

Indio Informer

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Providence

Providence – “A Divinity that Shapes Our Ends”

By John Gipson

The word providence is often on our lips, but we may not have a clear conception of its meaning. The idea is forethought. It comes from a combination of words: before and to think. Hence, forethought. The word is inserted into the New Testament by a certain orator named Tertullus who took the lead in bringing charges against the apostle Paul. In an effort to praise Governor Felix, Tertullus said, “Since through you we enjoy much peace and since by your provision (forethought, providence), most excellent Felix, reforms are introduced on behalf of this nation, in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude” (Acts 24:2-3). In the eyes of Tertullus, Felix was quite a man. The nation had been blessed by his providence. Felix had looked ahead, planned, and brought to pass needed reforms.

Whatever the providence of Felix might have been, it is nothing compared to the forethought of God who planned our redemption from the foundation of the world.

We see God's providence throughout the realm of nature, in the guidance of the nations, and in the deliverance of Israel from bondage into the promised land.

Benjamin Franklin said, “The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of man; and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?”

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Church of Christ

81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

Preacher:
Jack Critchfield

(Address Service Requested)

We see God's providence in individual lives: In David guarded from so many perils; in Joseph who could review the past and tell his brothers that they weren't responsible for bringing him to Egypt—it was the forethought and planning of God.

He who is truly thoughtful finds providence not only in the history of the world, but in his own personal and family history.

He therefore has confidence in the future. If God sustained the Israelites in the wilderness so that they lacked nothing, can't He provide for us? We need the same conviction with which Abraham spoke to his son, Isaac when he said, ***"God will provide . . ."***

The Two Sides of Providence

By Dan Jenkins



It might seem strange to learn that the word providence occurs only one time in the Bible, and there it is not referring to the providence of God (Acts 24:2). In fact, this word is not found in most translations. Yet, the truth is that the concept of God's providence is found throughout the Scriptures. One cannot read the Bible without knowing that God provides.

There are questions about His providence He has chosen to not reveal to us. We should be content to speak where the Bible speaks but also must remember to stop where the Bible stops. Moses' words say so much about this. *"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law"* (Deuteronomy 29:29). There is no way we can know that our

idle speculations are what God thinks and we must learn to be silent.

Providence Seen By Looking Backward

Because we know that every good and perfect gift comes from above (James 1:17), it is not wrong for us to look at the past and see the hand of God in our lives. Young David found strength and courage to fight Goliath because of His past experiences. *"The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine"* (1 Samuel 17:37). He knew of providence because he had seen it. The book of Psalms is filled with encouragement based on all that God had done in the past for Israel. Our Lord reminded His followers about providence, which they had seen in the rain, the sun, the birds and the lily of the valley. Because every good gift is from above, it is not wrong for us to look backwards to see providence.

Providence Seen When Looking Forward

The words of Abraham to Isaac show us that we can see His coming providence by faith. Isaac was concerned and asked his father about the animal for the sacrifice. The patriarch's answer was simple. *"God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering"* (Genesis 22:8). He had no idea how God would provide it. He just knew that He who had always provided in the past would do so in the future. David also looked forward with the eyes of faith and saw himself walking with his Shepherd through the valley of death.

Providence Seen in Our Life

So when troubles surround us and we are overwhelmed, stop and mediate of these two sides of providence. Look at how God has always helped His people. Look and see this truth in our past life. Then look to the adversity ahead and with the eye of faith march onward because we confidently know that your God will provide!