Chapter 5: Of Providence

1. Introduction: Westminster Shorter Catechism Questions 8, 11, 12
2. 5.1: God Preserves and Governs His Creation
    a. Uphold: Hebrews 1:3, Colossians 1:17, Acts 17:28
    b. Direct, dispose, and govern: John 19:11
    c. The greatest even to the least: Esther 6:1
    d. Most wise and holy: Ephesians 1:11
3. 5.2: First and Secondary Causes (Genesis 37)
4. 5.3: Means
    a. Maketh use of means: Exodus 14:21, Acts 27:31
    b. Yet is free to work without, above, and against them: Mark 4:39
5. 5.4: What About Sin?
    a. Sinfulness… proceedeth only from the creature, and not from God: Genesis 18:25, Psalm 5:4, 1 John 1:5, 1 John 2:16
    b. Joined with it a most wise and powerful bounding… to His own holy ends: Genesis 50:20, Acts 2:22-23
6. 5.5: The Dark Night of the Soul (Hebrews 12:6, Psalm 51, Luke 22:33-34, 1 Corinthians 10:12, Romans 8:29)
7. 5.6: Wicked and Ungodly Men
    a. God… doth blind and harden: Romans 1:24, Revelation 22:11
    b. They harden themselves, even under the means which God useth for the softening of others: Isaiah 55:10-11, 2 Corinthians 2:15-16
8. 5.7: God's Care for the Church (Romans 8:28, Romans 11:2-6)
9. Applications: 1 Corinthians 10:9-10, Ecclesiastes 7:13

References

1. R.C. Sproul – Truths We Confess: A Systematic Exposition of the Westminster Confession of Faith
2. G.I. Williamson – The Westminster Confession of Faith: for Study Classes
3. John Gerstner – https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/westminster-confession-of-faith/chapter-5-sec-2-chapter-6-sec4
4. Jonathan Edwards – Divine Husbandmen (on the Parable of the Sower and the Seed)
5. Thomas Boston, Jason Roth – The Crook in the Lot: God's Sovereignty in Afflictions: In Modern English
6. John of the Cross – Dark Night of the Soul