

First Baptist Church of Clinton, Louisiana  
 1689 Second London Baptist Confession  
 “Chapter 5, Of Divine Providence”  
 June 18, 2017

- Paragraph 2: First and Second Causes.
  - There are first and second causes.
  - Consider the word “contingently” in the confession. 1 Kings 22:17-37.
- Paragraph 3. Ordinary Providence.
  - The meaning of the word “ordinary.”
  - But this also says God is “free to work without, above and against them, at His pleasure.”

## THE MYSTERY OF PROVIDENCE

- Paragraph 4. The Place of Sin in Providence.
  - How do we account for the existence and place of sin in God’s creation?
    - First, God’s providence includes His permission of the fall of Adam in the garden, and all other sinful actions of angels and men.
    - Second, we must understand that these sins have their source outside of God.
  - The Teaching of the Bible.
    - The Bible teaches that God’s providence extends to sin and evil for His own purposes.
      - See 1 Sam 16:14-15; 2 Sam 12:11; 1 Kgs 22:19-23; Is 10:5-15; 45:4-7; Amos 3:6
      - Consider the story of Job: God invited Satan to consider Job (Job 1:6). Satan then slaughtered Job's livestock and children (Job 1:19). Job said: Job 1:21-22. Then later, Job says: Job 2:10.
      - See also Isaiah 10:5-7, 12, 15. Also, Isaiah 45:1-7.
      - The same Heb word “evil” (ra) refers to “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Gen 2:9), the evil of mankind that brought the flood (Gen 6:5), the evil of the men

of Sodom (Gen 13:13).

- So, what is the biblical relationship between God and evil?
  - God uses all things to fulfill His purposes and even uses evil for His glory and for our good. Rom 8:28; Gen 50:20
  - God never does evil and is never to be blamed for evil. James 1:13-14; Matt 18:7.
  - God rightly blames and judges creatures for what they do. Isa 66:3-4.
  - Evil is real, not an illusion, and human beings should never do evil because it always harms us and others. Matt 6:13; Jas 5:19-20.
  
- Paragraph 5. God's Ways with His People.
  - General Description.
  
  - Three Reasons God leaves us in our sins, according to the confession.
    - First, chastisement and humbling for former sins.
  
    - Second, God does this to keep us dependent upon Him.
  
    - Third, for the mortification of our sins.
  
- Paragraph 6. God's Ways with His Enemies.
  - First, their identities.
  
  - Second, God also withholds from them grace.
  
  - Third, God withdraws gifts from them.
  
  - Fourth, God gives them over to their lusts.
  
- Paragraph 7. The Church
  
- Some Practical Implications.
  - First, it frees us from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Second, it frees us from complaining and \_\_\_\_\_.

- Third, it frees us from \_\_\_\_\_.
- Fourth, it frees us from \_\_\_\_\_.
- Fifth, it frees us from \_\_\_\_\_.