

The doctrine of creation (Lord's Day 9) demands the doctrine of providence, for those things which God has made cannot continue to exist unless He upholds them. Also, since God has a will or counsel, there must be government and control by God in this world so that the purpose of His will is always accomplished. Although the doctrine of providence is of great comfort to children of God of all ages, it is of special benefit to young people. Teenagers face many complicated problems and decisions: what to do for one's life work; whom to court and marry; what educational plans ought to be made? God, in His providence, brings these things to pass in your lives!

A. Underline the answer that best completes each sentence.

1. God is our Father because:
 - a. He has adopted us in Jesus Christ.
 - b. we have chosen Him as our Father.
 - c. He has created us.
2. We know God is our Father because:
 - a. He is in heaven.
 - b. the Holy Spirit testifies of this in our hearts.
 - c. the Bible tells us so.
3. Everything that happens to us:
 - a. happens because of what we have done first.
 - b. cannot be avoided because of fate.
 - c. comes about because of the providence of God.
4. The evil things that come to us in this life:
 - a. come to us in God's love for us.
 - b. come to us against the wishes of God.
 - c. have nothing to do with God or His will.
5. God's providence includes the actions of men in such a way that:
 - a. man is not responsible for what he does.
 - b. man is still responsible for his actions.
 - c. God does not know what man will do in a certain situation.

B. God's providence touches absolutely every creature and event. Look up these passages, and place the corresponding number in the blank.

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| 1. Angels | ___ | a. Acts 2:23 |
| 2. Devils | ___ | b. Ephesians 2:10 |
| 3. Forces of "nature" | ___ | c. Matthew 10:29, 30 |
| 4. Ordinary things | ___ | d. Luke 22:22 |
| 5. Extraordinary things | ___ | e. Job 1:12 |
| 6. Good deeds of men | ___ | f. Matthew 24:7 |
| 7. Evil deeds of men | ___ | g. Psalm 147:16-18 |
| 8. Death of Christ | ___ | h. Matthew 28:2 |

Lord's Day 10 (cont.)

C. Thought questions:

1. By way of an example, show how a believing young person demonstrates trust in God.

2. In the light of the truth of providence, is it wrong to gamble or enter lotteries?

3. Is it possible that a proper understanding of God's counsel and providence will cause a person to be lazy or fatalistic? _____ Explain. _____
