

## **A Display of Arminianism**

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### **Chapter 4**

If the decrees of God are not eternal and immutable then God cannot possess perfect foreknowledge and He is not, then, governing and guiding all things to their purposed end. The divine governing and guiding of all things to fulfill their decreed end is called \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Providence is a word which, in its proper signification, may seem to comprehend all the actions of God that outwardly are of Him, that have any respect unto His creatures, all His works that are not ad intra, essentially belonging unto the Deity...The whole world is cared for by God, and by Him governed, and therein all men, good or bad, all things in particular, be they never so small and in our eyes inconsiderable.”*

*“There is nothing which He hath made, that with the good hand of His providence He doth not govern and sustain.”*

He is the one who decides how \_\_\_\_\_ to Himself a creature is allowed to come. God chooses to reveal Himself and to allow Himself to be known as He sees fit.

God’s providence extends to those who are not His people. God’s providence extends to other creatures. God’s providence extends to those things that seem to be \_\_\_\_\_ chance.

*“There is not the least thing in this world to which His care and knowledge doth not descend.”*

#### **The display of the Arminian attack of divine providence**

**God does not \_\_\_\_\_ with man will**

*“God wholly leaves man in the hand of his own counsel, to the disposal of his own absolute independent power, without any respect to His providence at all: whence, as they do, they may well conclude, ‘that those things which God would have to be done of us freely, He cannot Himself will or work more powerfully and effectually than by the ways of wishing or desiring.’”*

##### **1. God only sustains all things as a \_\_\_\_\_ act of His will**

*“For His conservation or sustaining of all things, they affirm it to be very likely that this is nothing but a negative act of His will, whereby He willeth or determineth not to destroy the things by Him created.”*

##### **2. God only manifests a \_\_\_\_\_ influence upon everyone**

*“For God’s concurring with inferior causes in all their acts and working, they affirm it to be only a general influence, alike upon all and everyone, which they may use or not use at their pleasure...”*

**3. God does not determine what a man \_\_\_\_\_ or will not do**

*“God hath not determined that you shall, nor doth by any means overrule your wills, to do this thing rather than that, to do this or to omit that.”*

**Rebuttal**

**1. The Scriptures \_\_\_\_\_ declare God’s providence over the counsels and secret resolutions of men**

*“I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.” Jeremiah 10:23*

David prays that the counsel of Ahithophel would be rejected (2 Samuel 15:31 & chapter 17).

Jacob asks for the Lord to incline the heart of the Egyptian towards his sons (Genesis 43:14).

*“The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He will.”- Proverbs 21:1*

**2. The saints in Scripture pray for God to move in \_\_\_\_\_ hearts**

David prayed, *“Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain.”*-Psalm 119:36

Solomon prays, *“May He not leave us or forsake us, that He may incline our hearts to Him, to walk in all His ways and keep His commandments, His statutes, and His rules, which He commanded our fathers.”*-1 Kings 8:57-58

Paul prays *“We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding...”*-Colossians 1:9

**3. The \_\_\_\_\_ and threatening of God hang on God’s providence**

*“In brief, there is no prophecy nor prediction in the whole Scripture, no promise to the church or faithful, to whose accomplishment the free actions and concurrence of men are required, but evidently declareth that God disposeth of the hearts of men, ruleth their wills, inclineth their affections, and determines them freely to choose and do what He in His good pleasure hath decreed shall be performed; such as were the prophecies of deliverance from the Babylonian captivity by Cyrus, the conversion of the Gentiles, the stability of the church, the destruction of Jerusalem, with innumerable others.*

**4. The apostles declare \_\_\_\_\_ things are from Him**

**5. God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all moral goodness**

**6. Destroying providence destroys \_\_\_\_\_ and the divine \_\_\_\_\_**