

Doctrine of Providence- Part 3

Written by Calvin Fox

Friday, 17 August 2012 14:16 - Last Updated Sunday, 19 August 2012 15:59

Causation

Every single event and action (human and in nature) has a cause. That means each has a “necessary antecedent.” There are four types of such antecedents or causes: Material (wood), Formal (table- determines what is going to be), Efficient (carpenter and tools) and Final (purpose, eg- flat surface with legs).

God creates and preserves and governs all things. That means all things are “caused”. Ultimately, The Formal, Efficient, Final and Material cause of all things is God. But yet, there must be contingencies. He God uses secondary “causes” to effect what He creates (Wood, carpenter and tools)

God is omniscient and His knowledge is immediate- He knows all things as they happen. Knowing something is how God brings it into being. God’s knowledge would be immediate. As soon as He knows some thing, it exists. He could not know something He has yet to think, to cause or create- some thing that does not yet exist.

God’s Word is His mind expressed. He speaks (thinks) and immediately something, everything, exists or happens. That is also how all things are preserved and governed. Everything is utterly dependent on the Word or Mind of God. The only real reality is the mind (word) of God manifest in a time-space, material word. That time-space and material world is itself a manifestation of His mind.

What does all this say about the Problem of Evil?

Doctrine of Providence- Part 3

Written by Calvin Fox

Friday, 17 August 2012 14:16 - Last Updated Sunday, 19 August 2012 15:59

Every single event and action (human and in nature) has an effect. All things are in a causal relation with other things. E

Empiricists deny any causal relations or knowledge of them.

We can not know necessary conditions.

Causal principles are only unproved assumptions.

There are only repeated sequences and regularity.

A “cause”, an Empiricist would say, is only a sufficient condition, they are freely chosen, not determined. There are many Scriptures about the creative Word or Mind of God. Many Scripture teach the omniscience of God and the absolute dependence of every person, creature and their choices and actions on God’s knowledge.

Rom 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. 1 Cor 8:6 one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things

Col 1:16-17 by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Heb 2:10 ...Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things

Rom 8:28 we know that God causes all things to work together for good to ... those who are called according to His purpose.

Eph 1:10 summing up [gathering] of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth

Eph 1:22 He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things