

PROVIDENCE IS PERHAPS

James 4:13-16

I. CONDITIONS THAT HINDER.

- A. Our Own Decisions. Romans 15:22
 - 1. Preaching in other areas, where the gospel had not been preached.
 - a. Jerusalem to Illyricum. Vss. 19-20
 - 2. Taking a contribution to Jerusalem, for saints in need. Vss. 25-27
- B. Satan's Work. 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18
 - 1. Paul desired to see the brethren.
 - 2. Satan thwarted their attempts – how?
 - a. We don't know, but possibly...
 - b. Trouble with Jews in Thessalonica, Acts 17:1-15.
 - c. Anytime the word of God is kept from being taught, we can know it is a work of Satan. Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8, 9
- C. Other Circumstances. Ecclesiastes 9:11
- D. Providence. James 4:13-16

II. GOD IS IN CONTROL.

- A. Wisdom from Solomon.
 - 1. Proverbs 16:9, "...*the Lord directs his steps.*"
 - 2. Proverbs 19:21, "...*the counsel of the Lord, it will stand.*"
 - 3. Proverbs 27:1, "*You do not know what a day may bring forth.*"
- B. *To A Mouse*, a Poem by Robert Burns.
 - 1. Written by Burns after he had turned over the nest of a tiny field mouse with his plough.
 - 2. "*The best laid schemes of mice and men go oft awry.*"
 - 3. Translation, they often don't work out.
- C. *Deo Volente* [D.V.] – God willing, if nothing prevents it.
 - 1. Used in earlier days (handwritten letters).
- D. Paul in Ephesus, Acts 18:21.

III. THE PRINCIPLE OF "PERHAPS".

- A. The Apostle Paul and Philemon.
 - 1. Acts 28:16, 30-31; Philemon 10-13.
 - 2. Onesimus was converted, Philemon 10.
 - 3. Verse 15, "...perhaps..."
- B. Moses.
 - 1. Moses put into basket and Nile to save from soldiers.
 - 2. Found by the daughter of Pharaoh.
 - 3. Miriam sent to find a Hebrew nursemaid [mother].
 - 4. Nourished by his mother, taught the way of the Lord.
 - 5. Paid for by Pharaoh's house.
 - 4. Providence? Without a doubt? At least, perhaps.
- C. *More confusin' than amusin'!* Charles Hodge

IV. BUT I CAN KNOW...

- A. Ephesians 5:15-16, “...making the most of your time, ...”
 - 1. We can trace in our minds the circumstances that have led us to where we are right now and ***perhaps*** see how God’s hand has led us.
 - 2. Romans 8:28, “...to those who love God...”
 - 4. But as to the “how” I cannot say.
- B. John 6:40, “*This is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son, and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.*”
- C. John 14:1-6
- D. 2 Timothy 4:7-8, “*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.*”