

Biblical Topics

Father – Preserver

God still preserves me and all creatures. When God rested on the seventh day, He did not withdraw from the world He had made. He did not let it shift as it might, but He has ever since been active every minute day and night in preserving all His creatures. By the power of His word He keeps them all in existence. If but for a second He would withdraw His sustaining support, the whole universe would at once sink back into nothing. Thus God preserves also our body and soul, eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses, so that each continues to function as He has designed. Without Him our mind could not think, our heart could not beat, we could neither flex the arm nor take a step. We are utterly dependent on Him. Without Him we could not exist a moment.

- Psalm 36:6:
- Hebrews 1:3:
- Psalm 145:15-16:
- 1 Peter 5:7:

He also defends us against all danger and guards and protects us from all evil. God is the Sovereign Ruler of the universe. He guides the stars in their courses, and controls the laws of nature. He makes the seed to germinate, the flower to bloom, and the fruit to ripen. He sends rain and sunshine, gives seedtime and harvest, summer and winter, day and night. Without His will not even a sparrow shall fall to the ground. Nothing happens accidentally or by chance in God's government of the world. He also governs the destiny of nations. Our lives are under His rule and guidance, and as His children we should feel sure that He will take good care of us. At times, however, God sends misfortunes upon us. They are punishments for the wicked, but for His children they are a blessing in disguise. He will defend and protect us so that the evil work out for our own good. Therefore we should never give way to fear, but be of good courage and trust in the Lord.

- Matthew 10:29-30:
- Psalm 91:10:
- Genesis 50:20:
- Psalm 37:5:
- Psalm 31:15:

God does all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without an merit or worthiness in us. There is no personal goodness or moral excellency in us that might possibly induce God to give us all these things.

- Psalm 103:13:
- Genesis 32:10:
- Luke 7:6:

For all this it is our duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. "Thank" God, we should often think of these blessings, know them as such, feel grateful in hearts, and

express this in words. "Praise" Him, speak to others of what God has done for us. "Serve" Him in our lives. Sincere gratitude will show itself not merely in words, but especially in works. We should use what God given us in His service. "Obey" Him, willingly do what He commands in His Word, not, however, with the thought of earning more blessings or of paying for those receive, but as an expression of our gratitude.

- Psalm 118:1:
- Psalm 116:12:

The above information is taken from: "Luther's Small Catechism" annotated by Edward W. A. Koehler.