

Comprehensive Coverage

Messianic pretenders to God's authority always promise comprehensive care they can never provide. Rather than look to any finite person or institution for their well-being, Christians confess that God alone is their Almighty Father because of Jesus Christ, which means they enjoy His ever-present and almighty care. This care extends to the smallest details, and even to tragedies and bad things. Christians can say, "Till now the Lord has helped us," because all things work together for our good since our all-powerful God uses evil and suffering for our sanctification. Few statements outside of the Bible capture this so well as the following questions from the Heidelberg Catechism (written in 1563):

26. What do you believe when you say: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?"

A. That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who of nothing made heaven and earth with all that in them is,[1] who likewise upholds, and governs the same by His eternal counsel and providence,[2] is for the sake of Christ, His Son, my God and my Father,[3] in whom I so trust as to have no doubt that He will provide me with all things necessary for body and soul;[4] and further, that whatever evil He sends upon me in this troubled life, He will turn to my good;[5] for He is able to do it, being Almighty God,[6] and willing also, being a faithful Father.[7]

[1] Gen 1-2; Ex 20:11; Job 38-39; Ps 33:6; Isa 44:24; Acts 4:24, 14:15; Col 1:16; Heb 11:3

[2] Ps 104:2-5, 27-30, 115:3; Mt 6:30, 10:29-30; Acts 17:24-25; Eph 1:11; Heb 1:3

[3] Mt 6:8; Jn 1:12-13; Rom 8:15-16; Gal 4:4-7; Eph 1:5, 3:14-16 [4] Ps 55:22, 90:1-2; Mt 6:25-26; Lk 12:22-31

[5] Acts 17:27-28; Rom 8:28

[6] Gen 18:14; Rom 8:31-39, 10:12

[7] Num 23:19; Mt 6:32-33, 7:9-11

27. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. The almighty, everywhere-present power of God,[1] whereby, as it were by His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth with all creatures,[2] and so governs them that herbs and grass, rain and drought,[3] fruitful and barren years, meat and drink,[4] health and sickness,[5] riches and poverty,[6] indeed, all things come not by chance,[7] but by His fatherly hand.[8]

[1] Jer 23:23-24; Acts 17:24-28

[2] Heb 1:3

[3] Jer 5:24

[4] Acts 14:15-17

[5] Jn 9:3

[6] Job 1:21; Ps 103:19; Prov 22:2; Rom 5:3-5

[7] Prov 16:33

[8] Mt 10:29; Eph 1:1

28. What does it profit us to know that God created, and by His providence upholds, all things?

A. That we may be patient in adversity,[1] thankful in prosperity,[2] and for what is future have good confidence in our faithful God and Father, that no creature shall separate us from His love,[3] since all creatures are so in His hand, that without His will they cannot so much as move.[4]

[1] Job 1:21-22; Ps 39:10; Rom 5:3; Jas 1:3

[2] Deut 8:10; 1 Thes 5:18

[3] Ps 55:22; Rom 5:3-5, 8:35, 38-39

[4] Job 1:12, 2:6; Ps 71:7; Prov 21:1; Acts 17:24-28; 2 Cor 1:10a

