

sermon notes

February 1, 2025 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church
No Other Name | “The Hand of Providence” | **Acts 22:30–23:35**

- 1) When a saint _____, God providentially works all things together for good (22:30–23:5)
- 2) When a saint “ _____,” God providentially works all things together for good (23:6–11)
- 3) When a saint is _____, God providentially works all things together for good (23:12–24)
- 4) When a saint is _____, God providentially works all things together for good (23:25–35)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Acts 22:30–23:5. What happens to Paul in verse 2 when he begins speaking to the Jewish council? How does Paul respond to the actions of the council? Was he right to respond this way?

Read Acts 23:6–11. Why do you think Paul referenced the “resurrection” in front of the Jewish council? In hindsight, was this a smart thing to do? Did it hinder Paul’s evangelistic efforts? What are some theological differences between Sadducees and Pharisees? Why do you think Paul said, “I am a Pharisee” (23:6) instead of “I was a Pharisee?”

Read Acts 23:12–35. Why were the Jewish conspirators so vindictive towards Paul? How do we know, from the outset, that the plot against Paul will fail? How does God protect Paul from the ambush? What promise did Jesus make to Paul that still awaits fulfillment in the book of Acts?

GET PERSONAL

Revisit Acts 22:30–23:5. How do you think you would have responded if you were in Paul’s shoes? What do Paul’s actions teach us about his character? In times when you lash out verbally, are you quick to repent of your mistake?

Why did Jesus tell Paul to “Take courage” in 23:11? Why do you think Jesus appeared to Paul during this moment of his life? Was there a time in your life when God helped you through a season of discouragement? How did he do that?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Define *providence* in your own words. Look up the following passages to help you with your definition: Genesis 45:5–8; Psalm 103:19; Job 1:21; Isaiah 14:24–27; Daniel 4:35; Matthew 10:29; Romans 8:28; 13:1–2; James 1:17; 4:13–15. Interact with how Paul’s experiences in the book of Acts coincide with his theological declaration in Romans 8:28. Are we able to see God’s providential work in our lives?

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

The words *providence* and *sovereignty* are often treated as synonyms but carry slightly different theological nuances. How would you distinguish God’s providence from God’s sovereignty? Consult a theological dictionary or a systematic theology to help you address this question.