

BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Theology Proper IV

The Divine Attributes, Part 2
(also, God, Creation, and Providence)

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God Is Omnipresent

- ✓ God is personally present at every point in the universe.
- ✓ Impossible to escape His presence (Ps 139:7)
- ✓ Impossible to limit God to one location (1 Kings 8:27)

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God Is Eternal

- ✓ God is not limited by the passage of time.
- ✓ God existed before the created order (Gen 1:1; Ps 90:2)
- ✓ God's actions stem from pre-creation purposes (1 Cor 2:7; Eph 1:4)

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God Is Eternal

- ✓ God will never go out of existence (Ps 9:7; 1 Tim 1:17)
- ✓ God does not age (Ps 102:25–27)
- ✓ God does not grow weary or impatient or forgetful (2 Pet 3:8)
 - ❖ 2 Peter 3:8–9 is not a theological statement of God being outside of time, as much as it indicates that God chooses to operate within time in His interactions with those within time.

God's existence is eternal in that it transcends time while God acts in the time-space universe and interacts with His creatures.

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God Is Omnipotent

- ✓ God is all-powerful and is able to do all that His perfect wisdom has decided to do (Job 42:2)
- ✓ God cannot do what is contrary to His nature:
 - ❖ Approve evil (Hab 1:13)
 - ❖ Deny promises (2 Tim 2:13)
 - ❖ Lie (Titus 1:2; Heb 6:18)
 - ❖ Tempt anyone (Jas 1:13)
 - ❖ Anything absurd or self-contradictory

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God Is Omniscient

- ✓ God perfectly and exhaustively knows everything about Himself and His creation—past, present, and future—actual and possible.
 - ❖ Himself (1 Cor 2:10)
 - ❖ All existing things (Ps 147:4–5)
 - ❖ Thoughts and hearts of man (Ps 139:1–4)
 - ❖ All things possible (Matt 11:21–24)
 - ❖ All things future (Isa 46:9–10)

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God Is Omniscient (all-wise)

- ✓ God employs His perfect knowledge in perfectly appropriate ways in order to bring about the enactment of His eternal decree for His glory
 - ❖ Wisdom of God in creation (Ps 104:24; Prov 3:19)
 - ❖ Wisdom of God in Redemption (1 Cor 1:21ff; Eph 3:10)
 - ❖ Wisdom comes from God (Prov 1:7; 2:6; 9:10; Eph 1:17)

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God Is Glorious

- ✓ The goodness and greatness of God expressed in His attributes, manifested to His creatures, and responded to by them such that God is seen to be weighty, honored, majestic, and praiseworthy.

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The Decree of God

The eternal plan by which God has rendered certain all the events of the universe, past, present, and future.

- ✓ All-inclusive, unified plan (Eph 1:11; Rom 8:28; Prov 16:33)
- ✓ Eternal (Eph 3:11)
- ✓ Certain (Ps 33:11)

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Creation

God, by a direct act, brought into being virtually instantaneously everything that is.

- ✓ Theology of Creation
 - ❖ Work of the Triune God
 - Father (1 Cor 8:6)
 - Son (John 1:3)
 - Holy Spirit (Gen 1:2)
 - ❖ A result of God's wisdom and will for His glory (Jer 10:12; Ps 19:1; Isa 43:7; Rev 4:11)

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Creation

- ✓ Creation is distinct from God, yet always dependent on God
- ✓ God created the universe at a definite point in time (Gen 1:1; John 17:5)
- ✓ Creation was instant and out of nothing—*ex nihilo* (Gen 1:1, 3, 6, 9, etc.; Ps 33:6; Heb 11:3)
- ✓ God directly created Adam and Eve (Gen 2:7; 2:21)

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Creation

- ✓ God's creation produced "after its kind" (Gen 1:11, 12, etc.)
- ✓ God's creation was perfect at the end of the creation week (Gen 1:31)
- ✓ God created the universe in a state of maturity
 - ❖ Adam and Eve
 - ❖ Plant life
 - ❖ Animal
 - ❖ Heavens and earth

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Creation

- ✓ Problems with Old Earth View
 - ❖ Based on least likely interpretation of Scripture
 - ❖ Denied historic view of the church
 - ❖ Places sun, moon, stars (Day 4) millions of years **after** plants and trees
 - ❖ If insects were formed on the fifth day and plants on the fourth day, how were plants pollinated for millions of years?
 - ❖ Verbs in the creation account define instantaneity, not a process
 - ❖ Adam gave names to all the land animals God had formed
 - ❖ Puts death before the Fall.
 - ❖ Science determines the Bible. It's an issue of authority.

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Divine Providence (Sovereignty)

"Providence is that continuous agency of God by which He makes all the events of the physical and moral universe fulfill the original design with which He created it."

A. H. Strong

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Divine Providence (Sovereignty)

- ✓ God's Providence extends:
 - ❖ Over the universe (Ps 103:19)
 - ❖ Physical world (John 37:1ff; Ps 104:1ff)
 - ❖ Animal kingdom (Matt 10:29)
 - ❖ Affairs of nations (Ps 22:28)
 - ❖ Birth and careers of men (Isa 45:1-5)
 - ❖ Human success and failure (Ps 75:6)
 - ❖ Spiritual good of the righteous (Rom 8:28)
 - ❖ Prayer (Matt 6:8)
 - ❖ Seemingly Trivial Things (Matt 10:30; Prov 16:33)

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Divine Providence (Sovereignty)

- ✓ Theology of Providence
 - ❖ God is self-sufficient and unable to be coerced
 - ❖ God is incomprehensible and has an infinite perspective
 - ❖ God is all-wise and capable of formulating the best plan for the universe
 - ❖ God is sovereign and has the right to carry out His plan
 - ❖ God is all-powerful and is able to carry out His plan
 - ❖ God is all-knowing and cannot be taken by surprise
 - ❖ God is all-good and has absolutely pure motives and actions
 - ❖ God is loving and is committed to personal relationships

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Nature of God's Will

- ✓ Three levels of causation (Acts 2:23)
- ✓ **Note:** According to God's sovereign plan, He permits His creatures to do evil, yet without incurring guilt upon Himself, for a greater good that only He fully comprehends.

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Nature of God's Will

God's Permissive Will
 Everything that God has ordained in creation (and He has ordained *everything*)

God's Moral Will
 What God wants from His people in creation.

God's Perfect Will
 When His Moral Will and Permissive Will align

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Nature of God's Will

Moral Will
 All that complies with the character of God

Permissive Will
 All actions which God has decreed to take place

Perfect Will

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Why Should We Pray?

- ✓ Prayer is a part of providence—God's ordained method
- ✓ If anyone prays, then God has ordained the prayer
- ✓ God has ordained the means as well as the end
- ✓ The issue of prayer is whether you are going to be a participant in the permissive will of God.

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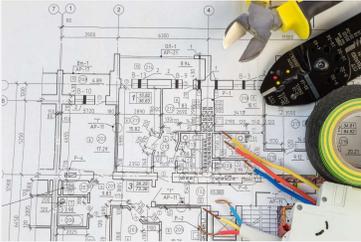
Sovereign Will & Voluntary Will

Three Expressions of Sovereignty

- ✓ Natural Intervention (Miracles)
- ✓ Spiritual Intervention (Faith, Regeneration, and Puppets!)
- ✓ Providence

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#1 Creative Craftsmanship



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#2 Microscopic Maintenance



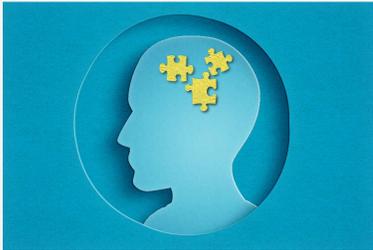
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#3 Right Place, Right Time



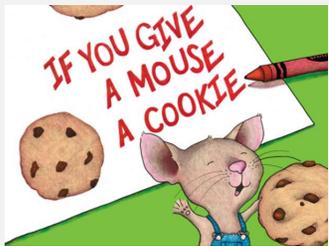
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#4 God Knows Me Better Than I Know Me



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#5 If You Give a Mouse a Cookie



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#6 God's Poker Strategy



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