

## A Providence-Minded Man!

### I. Announce:

- A. **Slide#1** The Class Act Campaign - To get the initiative will be placed on the 2014 ballot.
1. SB 48 uses **all** social science curriculum, including history books & other instructional materials, to teach children as young as five not only to **accept** but also to **endorse** *transgenderism, bisexuality, & homosexuality*.
    - a) **Overreaching, expensive** (public schools will begin supplementing current instruction with these materials before textbooks are revised) & **inaccurate** teaching of history.
  2. The CLASS Act & Stop SB 48 are 2 different campaigns.
    - a) Last year **Stop SB 48 campaign** failed to gather enough signatures to qualify for the ballot
    - b) **None of the signatures gathered in 2011 can be used, you must sign a new petition.**
    - c) Deadline 3 weeks away. **Can sign in back.**
- B. **Slide#2 Pray** - **Pstr Des** will be leading a “*teacher training team*” to Haiti Tonight (18).
1. **Alan & Kathy Spousta:** will be leading a team to the P.I. to visit & work w/the Baileys.
- C. **Rabbi Yossef Hilbrandt** - showing Unity between the Messianic Fellowship & our church.
- D. **Slide#3 Fathers Day** - Honor; celebrate; your influence & the example you are to your family.
1. Someone asked Mother Theresa what society could do to promote world peace, and she responded: **"Go home and love your family!"**
  2. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The righteous man is the one who lives for the next generation.*
  3. Carle Zimmerman, **"Nations & empires rise & fall on the strength of their families."**
    - a) **Single dads; leadership; legacy; hard worker; demonstrate love, show mutual respect; be consistent; have spontaneity; be an advocate; be responsible; have humor; practice what we preach.**

### II. Slide#4 Intro:

- A. **Is God involved in every circumstance in my life? The little & the big one's? The good & the bad one's? The prosperous & the unsuccessful business ventures? My health & my sicknesses?**
- B. **Slide#5 Intro Story: *Auguste Bartholdi*** went from France to Egypt in 1856. He was awestruck by the grandeur of the pyramids, the magnitude of the mighty Nile, and the beauty of the stately Sphinx of the desert. His artistic mind was stimulated. While on this trip he met another visitor to Egypt, ***Ferdinand de Lesseps***. Ferdinand was there to sell an idea. An idea to cut a canal from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea that would save merchant ships the long journey around the tip of the African continent.
- Auguste was taken by the concept. He decided to design a lighthouse to stand at the entrance to this canal.** It wouldn't be an ordinary lighthouse. It would symbolize the light of the Western civilization flowing to the East. It took 10 years to build the Suez Canal. **For 10 years Auguste worked on his idea.** He drew plans, made clay models. He scrapped plan after plan. Then he

had the right one. It was the perfect design. Only one problem remained. Who would pay for it? He looked everywhere, but no one was interested. **The Suez Canal was opened - without a lighthouse!**

Auguste went back to France **defeated**. Ten years of toil and effort wasted. You would have liked his idea. It was a colossal robed lady that stood taller than the Sphinx in the desert. She held the books of justice in one hand **and** a torch lifted high in the other to light the entrance to the canal. - **After** Auguste returned to France, the French government sought his artistic services. His planning and designing culminated in *the Statue of Liberty* lighting the New York harbor. **Slide#5b** His **disappointment** had turned to **delight**.<sup>1</sup>

1. God **is** at work in **every** circumstance of our life!!!

C. After talking last week about “**certain & purposeful** suffering” for Christians...  
**What do we have to rejoice in if the world, our flesh, & the devil is against us???**

1. **Let us count the ways!** – Read vs.28-30.

2. This ch. culminates with the truth, *nothing can separate us from the Love of God*.

a) These 3 verses explain why!

D. **Title:** *A Providence-Minded Man!*

E. **Outline:** *A Packed Promise! - Our Primary Purpose! - God’s Perfect Providence!*

### III. **Slide#6,7 A PACKED PROMISE! (28)**

A. **And we know that all things work together for good** – **Wait! Let’s remind ourselves...Who is saying this...an arm chair theologian? Some hermit in a monastery? Nope!** The Apostle Paul... Let’s read “*The Life of Paul*” Cliff Notes Style, 2 Cor.11:22-31 **I’ve worked much harder, been jailed more often, beaten up more times than I can count, and at death’s door time after time. I’ve been flogged 5 times with the Jews’ 39 lashes, beaten by Roman rods 3 times, pummeled with rocks once. I’ve been shipwrecked 3 times, and immersed in the open sea for a night and a day. In hard traveling year in and year out, I’ve had to ford rivers, fend off robbers, struggle with friends, struggle with foes. I’ve been at risk in the city, at risk in the country, endangered by desert sun and sea storm, and betrayed by those I thought were my brothers. I’ve known drudgery and hard labor, many a long and lonely night without sleep, many a missed meal, blasted by the cold, naked to the weather. **And that’s not the half of it**, when you throw in the daily pressures and anxieties of all the churches.**

1. Swindoll says, “Paul was **a pain magnet** if there ever was one!”

a) Now go back & read the text again! **Wow!**

2. If anyone could justifiably **resist & resent** life’s pain...it would have been Paul!

a) Many of us would have responded w/**anger & bitterness**; **but**, somehow Paul learned to **receive & rejoice** in what God placed in his path!

b) **Can you & I learn how to be able to live life like that, rather than just enduring it?**

<sup>1</sup> Joseph Stowell, *Through The Fire*, Victor Books, 1988, p. 48

- (1) Paul says, **YES!** – How? *By recognizing God’s providence. His control over all events!*
- c) \* Saints, if you do not grasp this, you will always see hardships as **enemies** rather than **your friend!**
3. Everyone in here this morning is old enough to look back on life & see that things that we *thought* were **disastrous** worked out to our **good**; things that we thought were **disappointments** worked out to **greater blessings**.<sup>2</sup>

B. **Slide#8** Lets’ unpack this Promise:

1. **We know...not guess!**

- a) It is a **fact**, not a based on a *feeling!*
- b) “It is something we have **unshakeable confidence in**, despite our *circumstances* or *feelings*.” (James D. G. Dunn)

2. **Slide#8b God works...not us!**

- a) NASB says, *And we know that **God** causes all things to work together for good to those who love God.*
- b) **He** controls everything! **Not us**, not **Mother Nature**, not **chance**, not **Donald trump**.
- c) The Lord is at the **helm** of history, steering the ship toward his divine purpose.<sup>3</sup>
- (1) If He wasn’t, he would have never been able to **prophecy** the future in Scripture; but He did, & it has a 100% accuracy thus far!
- (2) **Slide#9** Remember the analogy God told Jeremiah? – Read **Jer.18:2-8**.

3. **Slide#10 All things...not some things!**

- a) Be honest, *do you think Paul meant to say, “some things” or “most things”?*
- b) **Now**, this doesn’t mean that *everything we do* works together for good. (i.e. “marital unfaithfulness, rape, murder”) *As if*, we could just do every sin, & then just blame it on, *“hey, it’s God’s providence.”*
- (1) But what He does promise saints, is that when we give them to the Lord, he can turn **even those together for good!**
- (a) God **hates sin...but** once it is committed, He can use it for good!
- c) And, it’s not just the “**good**” things that come our way!
- (1) Spurgeon asks, “Did you ever hear of a man who got his health by being sick? **That is a Christian**. He gets **rich** by his losses, he **rises** by his falls, he **goes on** by being pushed back, he **lives** by dying, he **grows** by being diminished, & becomes **full** by being emptied. Well, if the bad things work for

<sup>2</sup> William Barclay, pg.117 *my loose paraphrase*.

<sup>3</sup> Chuck Swindoll, pg.53.

him so much good, what must His best things do? If he can sing in a dungeon, how sweetly will he sing in heaven?"

#### 4. Slide#10b Work for good...not evil!

a) Although, **unpleasant** or even **painful** things may come our way!

(1) (i.e.) If an **oncologist** prescribes cutting out the tumor, it will be **unpleasant** & even **painful**. **But** if you trust the wisdom & skill of your physician, you will take the treatment knowing it is what is best for you.

b) **Best & clearest Scriptural example:** Joseph!

(1) Joseph was seized by his bro's, thrown into a pit, sold into slavery. Forced to live as a foreigner (in Egypt) about 2 dozen years. He rose to a place of prominence, **but** then was thrown in jail for 2 years on trumped up charges. Got out, & rose again to a place of prominence. Then providence brought his brothers down to Egypt because of a famine. He had grounds & opportunity to destroy his brothers. Instead he was able to respond like only **a providence-minded man** could...& responded in love! Gen.50:20 **But as for you**, you meant evil against me; but **God** meant it for good.

(2) **He lived in a constant state of confidence that God was in control!!!**

#### 5. Slide#10c To God lovers...not everybody!

a) This isn't some *superficial optimism* that everything tends to everybody's good in the end.

b) **Work together for good**, **not necessarily** "feel" good; **not necessarily** "seem" good; **and**, **not necessarily** that they "are" good!

(1) But it does tell us that they **will work together for His children's good**.

c) If a man **loves** God, **trusts** God, & **accepts** God;

If a man **feels** & **knows** & is **convinced** that God is the **all-wise** & **all loving** Father;  
**Then** he can **humbly accept** **all** that God sends to him.

d) To **not believe** what I've been sharing is to word the scripture this way then "And we think (not know) that WE cause (not God) some (not all) things to work together for good to anybody (not those who love God)"

## IV. Slide#11 OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE! (29)

A. Slide#12a Foreknew – It does not mean simply that God foreknows "what" believers will do, but that God foreknows **them**.<sup>4</sup> [The term also speaks of **love** & **warmth**]

1. Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose & **foreknowledge** of God
2. 1 Pet.1:1 To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father.
3. Rom.11:2 God has not cast away His people whom He **foreknew**.

<sup>4</sup> Walvoord & Zuck

- a) It refers to a meaningful relationship w/a person based on God's choice in eternity before creation! (Walvoord & Zuck)
- B. **Slide#12b** So why does God **orchestrate** all these events in our life & in our world? - In order to **conform us to the image of His Son**(29).
1. God's purpose is to **make** His children **like** His Son...**And He will succeed!**
  2. **Conformed** – (LKGNT) *Having the same form. It denotes an **inward** & not merely **superficial** conformity.*
    - a) Conformity to Christ's image...**That's sanctification!**
    - b) **How will he accomplish this?**
      - (1) The Spirit will intercede for us & guide us as we pray. **And,**
      - (2) The Circumstances in life will work for our good/betterment, no matter how **painful** they may be.
        - (a) **Slide#13** When **Pain** comes your way, just see it as another blow of the sculptor's chisel, another knocking away of sin & hard edges from your life, in order for you to be made...**in his image!**

## V. **Slide#14 GOD'S PERFECT PROVIDENCE! (30)**

- A. **Slide#15 Providence!** (pro/videre = before/see)
- B. Though this isn't a word in our text, its **concept** is encapsulated here!
1. This teaches that the events in our life are not ruled by **chance** or **fate** **but** by our **Sovereign Lord**. **Who works out His plan & purpose** in the lives of all his children.
- C. **Slide#16** People don't like this because: (4 things)
1. **Distrust!** - They have trouble reconciling "**God is love**", w/God **guides & governs** all events (i.e. even the painful, hard, & unjust one's)
  2. **Control!** – They want to be in control themselves. I mean, what if God wants to send me to **Indonesia, Brazil, or Spain** as a missionary or something?
  3. **Selfishness!** – They say, "**Why me Lord?**" when tragedy strikes, but really don't want to know His reasons or how they can glorify Him in it. Their question is really a complaint w/the emphasis not on the **WHY**...but on the **ME!** (**Why me Lord?**)
  4. **Pride!** – Pride says, "I'm not a puppet on a string, I'm no robot!"
    - a) All of these basically just **doubt** that "**God is Good**", **and**, that He **can't** be Trusted!
    - b) **Slide#17,18,19** True we are not a **robot** programmed to do His bidding; **but** we are **sheep** who need the guidance of a **Shepherd!**
      - (1) That Shepherd will lead us in the way best for us & for His purposes!
    - c) Jesus didn't say, (use Robotic voice) **My robots hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. But instead, My sheep** hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

D. **Slide#20 Predestined!** (LKGNT) To mark out w/a boundary beforehand.

1. Eph.1:4,5,11 **Just as He chose us in Him (when?) before the foundation of the world, (why?) that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (how will this happen?) having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,...In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,**"

a) "The **predestined certainty** of God's gracious work in Christ was not meant to *perplex* men, **but to encourage and reassure all who** trust in His grace!"<sup>5</sup>

b) God is **just** and **wise** in His exercise of free grace, even when His doings are most perplexing to us.

E. **Slide#20b Called!** - Or chosen, or elected.

F. **Slide#20c Justified!** - To declare to be right.

G. **Slide#20d Glorified!** - This is the "consummation" of salvation! (conclusion/finale)

1. We will be finished w/the **process of sanctification!**

2. We will finally be **free from the presence of sin.**

3. We will be given our **new eternal incorruptible bodies.**

4. We will be **with Jesus.**

a) "It is in the *past tense* because the final step is so certain in God's eyes, it is as good as done!" (Walvoord & Zuck)

b) God possess **providential control** over our lives *from start to finish*. He knew us before we were born, He accompanies us each step of the way,...all the way to heaven.<sup>6</sup>

(1) **Rest secure in His sovereign hands!**

H. **Slide#21 So...**

**Our Predestination** is God's Grace at work before the foundation of the world.

**Our Calling** is God's Grace confronting us.

**Our Justification** is God's Grace making us right w/Himself in the midst of history.

**Our Glorification** is God's Grace in the consummation of this age.<sup>7</sup>

I. **Is Christ likeness your goal?** - Then remember, & rely, on God's providence in **all** your life situations, **everyday, today,...this Fathers Day!**

J. **Slide#22** In a **small pub** in *the highlands of Scotland* a group of fishermen gathered one afternoon and were enjoying a round of ale. Just as one was showing, with his hands, how big one fish was that had gotten away, a waitress passed. His hand hit a glass of ale she was carrying on a tray and some of **the dark brew spilled on the white wall of the pub**. It began to

<sup>5</sup> International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.

<sup>6</sup> Chuck Swindoll, pg.56.

<sup>7</sup> Shepherd's Notes, pg.54.

run down. The waitress hastily took a cloth from her apron and began to wipe, but the ale had left **an ugly dark stain**. **At another table**, a man rose and came over. He took a crayon from his pocket and as all in the pub watched, began to **sketch around the stain**. In a few moments, he had drawn the head of *a magnificent stag* with *spreading antlers*. Under his hand, the **mistake** had become a thing of **beauty**. The artist was Sir Edwin Landseer. At that time he was England's foremost painter of animals. **Slide#23 blank**

1. Will you let God do the same in your life, to your dark stains of your past?