

I. Read Luke 12:22-34

- A. In verses 22-32, the overarching theme is the providence of God. The Westminster Larger Catechism Question 18 asks, “God’s works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures; ordering them, and all their actions, to his own glory.” R.C. Sproul writes in his work *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*:

“The root meaning of the word *providence* is ‘to see in advance or beforehand or to provide for’... What God creates, He also sustains. The universe is not only dependent upon God for its origin, it depends upon God for its continuity of existence...Nothing ever has been beyond the scope of His sovereign providential government.”

In the definitions above, we find the essential truth declared in Scripture – *God provides for His creatures as He governs, preserves, and sustains all His creation.*

Read the following Scriptures and comment on what they explain regarding the providence of God.

1. Acts 17:28

 2. Psalm 104:24

 3. Hebrews 1:3

 4. Psalm 135:6-7
- B. In view of the important and vital biblical truths of God’s providence, how should believers approach life? Use the following scriptures to direct your answer.

1. Philippians 4:6-7
 2. II Corinthians 12:8-10
 3. Romans 8:28-29
 4. Matthew 10:19, 20
- C. There are several practical principles in Luke 12:22-32. The first is especially important. Verses 22-23 explain that there is more to life than our physical needs. This points to the more important aspect of life is mentioned in verse 31. What is it?
1. Does the point above mean that our physical needs are irrelevant?
 2. In verse 25 our Lord says, “And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life’s span?” In a society obsessed with health and longevity, how should we apply the truth our Lord is teaching?
 3. In verse 28, our Lord contrasts worry (v26) with having faith. How do we demonstrate our faith that God will provide for us?
- D. In verses 33-34, our Lord instructs His disciples to sell their possessions and give the proceeds to the poor. Compare this to His response to the rich young ruler as described in Mark 10:17-27. Is this a particular instruction to be applied to all believers in the same manner? Should all believers sell all their possessions and give the proceeds to the poor?